

**75-3-101. Devolution of estate at death -- Restrictions.**

The power of a person to leave property by will and the rights of creditors, devisees, and heirs to his property are subject to the restrictions and limitations contained in this code to facilitate the prompt settlement of estates. Upon the death of a person his real and personal property devolves to persons to whom it is devised by his last will or to those indicated as substitutes for them in cases involving lapse, renunciation, or other circumstances affecting the devolution of testate estate, or in the absence of testamentary disposition, to his heirs, or to those indicated as substitutes for them in cases involving renunciation or other circumstances affecting devolution of intestate estates, subject to homestead allowance, exempt property and family allowance, rights of creditors, elective share of the surviving spouse, and administration.

Enacted by Chapter 150, 1975 General Session

**75-3-102. Necessity of order of probate for will.**

Except as provided in Section 75-3-1201, to be effective to prove the transfer of any property or to nominate a personal representative, a will must be declared to be valid by an order of informal probate by the registrar, or an adjudication of probate by the court, except that a duly executed and unrevoked will which has not been probated may be admitted as evidence of a devise if both:

- (1) no court proceeding concerning the succession or administration of the estate was commenced during the time period for testacy proceedings; and
- (2) either the devisee or the devisee's successors and assigns possessed the property devised in accordance with the provisions of the will, or the property devised was not possessed or claimed by anyone by virtue of the decedent's title during the time period for testacy proceedings.

Amended by Chapter 364, 2013 General Session

**75-3-103. Necessity of appointment for administration.**

Except as otherwise provided in Title 75, Chapter 4, to acquire the powers and undertake the duties and liabilities of a personal representative of a decedent, a person must be appointed by order of the court or registrar, qualify and be issued letters. Administration of an estate is commenced by the issuance of letters.

Enacted by Chapter 150, 1975 General Session

**75-3-104. Claims against decedent -- Necessity of administration.**

No proceeding to enforce a claim against the estate of a decedent or his successors may be revived or commenced before the appointment of a personal representative. After the appointment and until distribution, all proceedings and actions to enforce a claim against the estate are governed by the procedure prescribed by this Chapter 3. After distribution a creditor whose claim has not been barred may recover from the distributees as provided in Section 75-3-1004 or from a former personal representative individually liable as provided in Section 75-3-1005. This section has no

application to a proceeding by a secured creditor of the decedent to enforce his right to his security except as to any deficiency judgment which might be sought therein.

Enacted by Chapter 150, 1975 General Session

**75-3-105. Proceedings affecting devolution and administration -- Jurisdiction of subject matter.**

(1) Persons interested in decedents' estates may apply to the registrar for determination in the informal proceedings provided in this chapter and may petition the court for orders in formal proceedings within the court's jurisdiction, including, but not limited to those described in this chapter. The court may hear and determine formal proceedings involving administration and distribution of decedents' estates after notice to interested persons in conformity with Section 75-1-401. Persons notified are bound though less than all interested persons may have been given notice.

(2) For purposes of this code, formal proceedings involving administration and distribution of decedent's estates shall include proceedings to determine the heirs of a decedent and proceedings to construe a duly probated will of a decedent, whether or not the estate of the decedent is being, or previously has been, administered or distributed.

Enacted by Chapter 150, 1975 General Session

**75-3-106. Scope of proceedings -- Proceedings independent -- Exception.**

(1) Unless supervised administration as described in Part 5 of this chapter is involved:

(a) Each proceeding before the court or registrar is independent of any other proceeding involving the same estate.

(b) Petitions for formal orders of the court may combine various requests for relief in a single proceeding if the orders sought may be finally granted without delay. Except as required for proceedings which are particularly described by other sections of this chapter, no petition is defective because it fails to embrace all matters which might then be the subject of a final order.

(c) Proceedings for probate of wills or adjudications of no will may be combined with proceedings for appointment of personal representatives.

(d) A proceeding for appointment of a personal representative is concluded by an order making or declining the appointment.

Enacted by Chapter 150, 1975 General Session

**75-3-107. Probate and testacy proceedings -- Ultimate time limit -- Presumption and order of intestacy.**

(1) No informal probate proceeding or formal testacy proceeding, other than a proceeding to probate a will previously probated at the testator's domicile, may be commenced more than three years after the decedent's death, except:

(a) If a previous proceeding was dismissed because of doubt about the fact of the decedent's death, appropriate probate or testacy proceedings may be maintained at

any time thereafter upon a finding that the decedent's death occurred prior to the initiation of the previous proceeding and the applicant or petitioner has not delayed unduly in initiating the subsequent proceeding.

(b) Appropriate probate or testacy proceedings may be maintained in relation to the estate of an absent, disappeared, or missing person for whose estate a conservator has been appointed, at any time within three years after the conservator becomes able to establish the death of the protected person.

(c) A proceeding to contest an informally probated will and to secure appointment of the person with legal priority for appointment in the event the contest is successful, may be commenced within the later of 12 months from the informal probate or three years from the decedent's death.

(2) The limitations provided in Subsection (1) do not apply to proceedings to construe probated wills or determine heirs of an intestate. In cases under Subsection (1)(a) or (b), the date on which a testacy proceeding is properly commenced shall be deemed to be the date of the decedent's death for purposes of other limitations provisions of this title which relate to the date of death.

(3) If no will is probated within three years from death, the presumption of intestacy is final and the court shall upon filing a proper petition enter an order to that effect.

(4) Notwithstanding the time restriction in Subsection (1), the court has continuing jurisdiction to:

(a) determine what property was owned by the decedent at the time of death; and

(b) appoint, formally or informally, a personal representative or special administrator to administer the decedent's estate.

Amended by Chapter 142, 2014 General Session

**75-3-108. Statutes of limitation on decedent's cause of action.**

No statute of limitation running on a cause of action belonging to a decedent which had not been barred as of the date of his death shall apply to bar a cause of action surviving the decedent's death sooner than 12 months after death. A cause of action which, but for this section, would have been barred less than 12 months after death, is barred after 12 months unless tolled.

Enacted by Chapter 150, 1975 General Session

**75-3-109. Letters upon several estates jointly.**

(1) Upon petition by any person interested in two or more estates, the court may, after notice and hearing, grant letters upon these estates jointly if administration has not commenced with respect to any such estate and if:

(a) All or any part of the estate of one decedent has descended from another decedent; or

(b) Two or more decedents held any property during their lifetimes as tenants-in-common and if the persons entitled under the wills of these decedents or under the law of intestate succession to receive the estates of these decedents are the

same.

(2) If letters are granted upon two or more estates jointly under this section, these estates shall be administered the same as if they were but one estate except that claims may be enforced only against the estate to which they relate.

Enacted by Chapter 194, 1977 General Session

**75-3-201. Venue for first and subsequent estate proceedings -- Location of property.**

(1) Venue for the first informal or formal testacy or appointment proceedings after a decedent's death is:

(a) In the county where the decedent had his domicile at the time of his death.

(b) If the decedent was not domiciled in this state, in any county where property of the decedent was located at the time of his death.

(2) Venue for all subsequent proceedings involving administration and distribution of decedent's estates is in the place where the initial proceeding occurred, unless the initial proceeding has been transferred as provided in Subsection (3) of this section or in Section 75-1-303.

(3) If the first proceeding was informal, on application of an interested person and after notice to the proponent in the first proceeding, the court, upon finding that venue is elsewhere, may transfer the proceeding and the file to the other court.

(4) For the purpose of aiding determinations concerning location of assets which may be relevant in cases involving nondomiciliaries, a debt, other than one evidenced by investment or commercial paper or other instrument in favor of a nondomiciliary, is located where the debtor resides, or if the debtor is a person other than an individual, at the place where it has its principal office. Commercial paper, investment paper, and other instruments are located where the instrument is. An interest in property held in trust is located where the trustee may be sued.

Enacted by Chapter 150, 1975 General Session

**75-3-202. Appointment or testacy proceedings -- Conflicting claim of domicile in another state.**

If conflicting claims as to the domicile of a decedent are made in a formal testacy or appointment proceeding commenced in this state, and in a testacy or appointment proceeding after notice pending at the same time in another state, the court of this state must stay, dismiss, or permit suitable amendment in, the proceeding here unless it is determined that the local proceeding was commenced before the proceeding elsewhere. The determination of domicile in the proceeding first commenced must be accepted as determinative in the formal testacy or appointment proceeding in this state.

Enacted by Chapter 150, 1975 General Session

**75-3-203. Priority among persons seeking appointment as personal representative.**

(1) Whether the proceedings are formal or informal, persons who are not

disqualified have priority for appointment in the following order:

(a) the person with priority as determined by a probated will, including a person nominated by a power conferred in a will;

(b) the surviving spouse of the decedent who is a devisee of the decedent;

(c) other devisees of the decedent;

(d) the surviving spouse of the decedent;

(e) other heirs of the decedent;

(f) 45 days after the death of the decedent, any creditor.

(2) An objection to an appointment can be made only in formal proceedings. In case of objection the priorities stated in Subsection (1) apply except that:

(a) If the estate appears to be more than adequate to meet exemptions and costs of administration but inadequate to discharge anticipated unsecured claims, the court, on petition of creditors, may appoint any qualified person;

(b) In case of objection to appointment of a person other than one whose priority is determined by will by an heir or devisee appearing to have a substantial interest in the estate, the court may appoint a person who is acceptable to heirs and devisees whose interests in the estate appear to be worth in total more than one-half of the probable distributable value, or, in default of this accord, any suitable person.

(3) A person entitled to letters under Subsections (1)(b) through (1)(f) and a person aged 18 and over who would be entitled to letters but for his age, may nominate a qualified person to act as personal representative. Any person aged 18 and over may renounce his right to nominate or to an appointment by appropriate writing filed with the court. When two or more persons share a priority, those of them who do not renounce must concur in nominating another to act for them or in applying for appointment in informal proceedings. When two or more persons share a priority, any one or more of them who do not renounce may nominate another to act or apply for appointment in formal proceedings. Before appointing fewer than all persons who share a priority and who have not renounced or nominated another, the court must determine that those sharing the priority, although given notice of the formal proceedings, have failed to request appointment or to nominate another for appointment, and that administration is necessary.

(4) Conservators of the estates of protected persons, or if there is no conservator, any guardian, except a guardian ad litem of a minor or incapacitated person, may exercise the same right to nominate, to object to another's appointment, or to participate in determining the preference of a majority in interest of the heirs and devisees that the protected person or ward would have if qualified for appointment.

(5) Appointment of one who does not have priority under Subsection (1) or priority resulting from renunciation or nomination determined pursuant to this section may be made only in formal proceedings. Before appointing one without priority, the court must determine that those having priority, although given notice of the proceedings, have failed to request appointment or to nominate another for appointment, and that administration is necessary.

(6) No person is qualified to serve as a personal representative who is:

(a) under the age of 21;

(b) a person whom the court finds unsuitable in formal proceedings.

(7) A personal representative appointed by a court of the decedent's domicile

has priority over all other persons except where the decedent's will nominates different persons to be personal representative in this state and in the state of domicile. The domiciliary personal representative may nominate another, who shall have the same priority as the domiciliary personal representative.

(8) This section governs priority for appointment of a successor personal representative but does not apply to the selection of a special administrator.

Amended by Chapter 226, 1983 General Session

**75-3-204. Demand for notice of order or filing concerning decedent's estate.**

Any interested person desiring notice of any order or filing pertaining to a decedent's estate may file a demand for notice with the court at any time after the death of the decedent stating the name of the decedent, the nature of his interest in the estate, and the demandant's address or that of his attorney. The clerk shall mail a copy of the demand to the personal representative if one has been appointed. After filing of a demand, no order or filing to which the demand relates shall be made or accepted without notice as prescribed in Section 75-1-401 to the demandant or his attorney. The validity of an order which is issued or filing which is accepted without compliance with this requirement shall not be affected by the error, but the petitioner receiving the order or the person making the filing may be liable for any damage caused by the absence of notice. The requirement of notice arising from a demand under this provision may be waived in writing by the demandant and shall cease upon the termination of his interest in the estate.

Amended by Chapter 226, 1983 General Session

**75-3-301. Informal probate or appointment proceedings -- Application -- Contents.**

(1) Applications for informal probate or informal appointment shall be directed to the registrar, and verified by the applicant to be accurate and complete to the best of the applicant's knowledge and belief as to the appropriate information required under this section.

(2) Every application for informal probate of a will or for informal appointment of a personal representative, other than a special or successor representative, shall contain the following:

- (a) a statement of the interest of the applicant;
- (b) the name and date of death of the decedent, the decedent's age, the county and state of the decedent's domicile at the time of death, and the names and addresses of the spouse, children, heirs, and devisees and the ages of any who are minors so far as known or ascertainable with reasonable diligence by the applicant;
- (c) if the decedent was not domiciled in the state at the time of the decedent's death, a statement showing venue;
- (d) a statement identifying and indicating the address of any personal representative of the decedent appointed in this state or elsewhere whose appointment has not been terminated; and

(e) a statement indicating whether the applicant has received a demand for notice or is aware of any demand for notice of any probate or appointment proceeding concerning the decedent that may have been filed in this state or elsewhere.

(3) An application for informal probate of a will shall state the following in addition to the statements required by Subsection (2):

(a) that the original of the decedent's last will:

(i) is in the possession of the court;

(ii) was filed with the court's electronic filing system and is now in the possession of the applicant or the applicant's attorney; or

(iii) is an authenticated copy of a will probated in another jurisdiction accompanies the application or was filed with the court's electronic filing system and the authenticated copy is now in the possession of the applicant or the applicant's attorney;

(b) that the applicant, to the best of the applicant's knowledge, believes the will to have been validly executed;

(c) that after the exercise of reasonable diligence, the applicant is unaware of any instrument revoking the will, and that the applicant believes that the instrument which is the subject of the application is the decedent's last will; and

(d) that the time limit for informal probate as provided in this chapter has not expired either because three years or less have passed since the decedent's death, or if more than three years have passed since the decedent's death, circumstances as described by Section 75-3-107 authorizing tardy probate have occurred.

(4) An application for informal appointment of a personal representative to administer an estate under a will shall describe the will by date of execution and state the time and place of probate or the pending application or petition for probate. The application for appointment shall adopt the statements in the application or petition for probate, state the name, address and priority for appointment of the person whose appointment is sought, state whether or not bond is required, and, if required, unless specified by the will, state the estimated value of the personal and real estate of the decedent and of the income expected from the personal and real estate during the next year.

(5) An application for informal appointment of an administrator in intestacy shall state in addition to the statements required by Subsection (2):

(a) That after the exercise of reasonable diligence, the applicant is unaware of any unrevoked testamentary instrument relating to property having a situs in this state under Section 75-1-301, or, a statement why any such instrument of which he may be aware is not being probated;

(b) The priority of the person whose appointment is sought and the names of any other persons having a prior or equal right to the appointment under Section 75-3-203;

(c) If bond is required, the estimated value of the personal and real estate of the decedent and of the income expected from the personal and real estate during the next year.

(6) An application for appointment of a personal representative to succeed a personal representative appointed under a different testacy status shall refer to the order in the most recent testacy proceeding, state the name and address of the person whose appointment is sought and of the person whose appointment will be terminated if

the application is granted, and describe the priority of the applicant.

(7) An application for appointment of a personal representative to succeed a personal representative who has tendered a resignation as provided in Subsection 75-3-610(3), or whose appointment has been terminated by death or removal, shall adopt the statements in the application or petition which led to the appointment of the person being succeeded, except as specifically changed or corrected, state the name and address of the person who seeks appointment as successor, and describe the priority of the applicant.

Amended by Chapter 142, 2014 General Session

**75-3-302. Informal probate -- Duty of registrar -- Effect of informal probate.**

After receipt of an application requesting informal probate of a will, the registrar, upon making the findings required by Section 75-3-303 shall issue a written statement of informal probate if at least 10 days have elapsed since the date of the notice required by Section 75-3-306, or if at least 120 hours have elapsed since the decedent's death and all persons entitled to notice under Section 75-3-306 have waived such notice in writing. Informal probate is conclusive as to all persons until superseded by an order in a formal testacy proceeding. No defect in the application or procedure relating thereto which leads to informal probate of a will renders the probate void.

Amended by Chapter 194, 1977 General Session

**75-3-303. Informal probate -- Proof and findings required.**

(1) In an informal proceeding for original probate of a will, the registrar shall determine whether:

- (a) the application is complete;
- (b) the applicant has made oath or affirmation that the statements contained in the application are true to the best of his knowledge and belief;
- (c) the applicant appears from the application to be an interested person as defined in Subsection 75-1-201(24);
- (d) on the basis of the statements in the application, venue is proper;
- (e) an original, duly executed and apparently unrevoked will was presented to the court for electronic storage and electronic filing and is now in the possession of the applicant or the applicant's attorney, or is in the registrar's possession;
- (f) any notice required by Section 75-3-204 has been given and that the application is not within Section 75-3-304; and
- (g) it appears from the application that the time limit for original probate has not expired.

(2) The application shall be denied if it indicates that a personal representative has been appointed in another county of this state or except as provided in Subsection (4), if it appears that this or another will of the decedent has been the subject of a previous probate order.

(3) A will which appears to have the required signatures and which contains an attestation clause showing that requirements of execution under Section 75-2-502, 75-2-503, or 75-2-506 have been met shall be probated without further proof. In other



cases, the registrar may assume execution if the will appears to have been properly executed, or he may accept a sworn statement or affidavit of any person having knowledge of the circumstances of execution, whether or not the person was a witness to the will.

(4) Informal probate of a will which has been previously probated elsewhere may be granted at any time upon written application by any interested person, together with deposit of an authenticated copy of the will and of the statement probating it from the office or court where it was first probated.

(5) A will from a place which does not provide for probate of a will after death and which is not eligible for probate under Subsection (1) above may be probated in this state upon receipt by the registrar of a duly authenticated copy of the will and a duly authenticated certificate of its legal custodian that the copy filed is a true copy and that the will has become operative under the law of the other place.

Amended by Chapter 364, 2013 General Session

**75-3-304. Informal probate -- Unavailable in certain cases.**

Applications for informal probate which relate to one or more of a known series of testamentary instruments (other than wills and codicils), the latest of which does not expressly revoke the earlier, shall be declined.

Enacted by Chapter 150, 1975 General Session

**75-3-305. Informal probate -- Registrar not satisfied.**

If the registrar is not satisfied that a will is entitled to be probated in informal proceedings because of failure to meet the requirements of Sections 75-3-303 and 75-3-304 or any other reason, he may decline the application. A declination of informal probate is not an adjudication and does not preclude formal probate proceedings.

Enacted by Chapter 150, 1975 General Session

**75-3-306. Informal probate -- Notice requirements.**

(1) The moving party must give notice as described by Section 75-1-401 of his application for informal probate:

- (a) To any person demanding it pursuant to Section 75-3-204.
- (b) To any personal representative of the decedent whose appointment has not been terminated.

(2) Upon receipt of an application for informal probate of a will, the clerk shall give written notice of the application to the heirs and devisees who have not waived notice. The notice shall include the name and address of the applicant, the name and location of the court in which the application was filed, the date on which the application was filed, and a statement to the effect that the requested probate will be granted after the elapse of 10 days from the date of the notice. The notice shall be delivered or sent by ordinary mail to each of the heirs and devisees at his address as shown on the application. The failure of an heir or devisee to object to the granting of the probate within the prescribed period of time shall not affect his right to petition the court to set

the probate aside under Section 75-3-401.

Amended by Chapter 194, 1977 General Session

**75-3-307. Informal appointment proceedings -- Delay in order -- Duty of registrar -- Effect of appointment.**

(1) After receipt of an application for informal appointment of a personal representative other than a special administrator as provided in Section 75-3-614, the registrar, after making the findings required by Section 75-3-308, shall appoint the applicant subject to qualification and acceptance, if at least 10 days have elapsed since the date of the notice required by Section 75-3-310, or if at least 120 hours have elapsed since the decedent's death and all persons entitled to notice under Section 75-3-310 have waived this notice in writing; but if the decedent was a nonresident, the registrar shall delay the order of appointment until 30 days have elapsed since death unless the personal representative appointed at the decedent's domicile is the applicant, or unless the decedent's will directs that his estate be subject to the laws of this state.

(2) The status of personal representative and the powers and duties pertaining to the office are fully established by informal appointment. An appointment, and the office of personal representative created by it, is subject to termination as provided in Sections 75-3-608 through 75-3-612, but is not subject to retroactive vacation.

Amended by Chapter 194, 1977 General Session

**75-3-308. Informal appointment proceedings -- Proof and findings required.**

(1) In informal appointment proceedings, the registrar shall determine whether:

- (a) the application for informal appointment of a personal representative is complete;
- (b) the applicant has made oath or affirmation that the statements contained in the application are true to the best of his knowledge and belief;
- (c) the applicant appears from the application to be an interested person as defined in Subsection 75-1-201(24);
- (d) on the basis of the statements in the application, venue is proper;
- (e) any will to which the requested appointment relates has been formally or informally probated; but this requirement does not apply to the appointment of a special administrator;
- (f) any notice required by Section 75-3-204 has been given; and
- (g) from the statements in the application, the person whose appointment is sought has priority entitling him to the appointment.

(2) Unless Section 75-3-612 controls, the application shall be denied if it indicates that a personal representative who has not filed a written statement of resignation as provided in Subsection 75-3-610(3) has been appointed in this or another county of this state, that (unless the applicant is the domiciliary personal representative or his nominee) the decedent was not domiciled in this state, and that a personal representative whose appointment has not been terminated has been

appointed by a court in the state of domicile, or that other requirements of this section have not been met.

Amended by Chapter 39, 1998 General Session

**75-3-309. Informal appointment proceedings -- Registrar not satisfied.**

If the registrar is not satisfied that a requested informal appointment of a personal representative should be made because of failure to meet the requirements of Sections 75-3-307 and 75-3-308, or for any other reason, he may decline the application. A declination of informal appointment is not an adjudication and does not preclude appointment in formal proceedings.

Enacted by Chapter 150, 1975 General Session

**75-3-310. Informal appointment proceedings -- Notice requirements.**

(1) The moving party must give notice as described by Section 75-1-401 of his intention to seek an appointment informally:

- (a) To any person demanding it pursuant to Section 75-3-204.
- (b) To any person having a prior or equal right to appointment not waived in writing and filed with the court.

(2) Upon receipt of an application for an informal appointment the clerk shall give written notice of the application to the heirs and devisees who have not waived notice. The notice shall include the name and address of the person whose appointment is sought, the name and location of the court in which the application was filed, the date on which the application was filed, and a statement to the effect that the appointment will be made after the elapse of 10 days from the date of the notice. The notice shall be delivered or sent by ordinary mail to each of the heirs and devisees at his address as shown on the application. The failure of an heir or devisee to object to the appointment within the prescribed period of time shall not affect his right to petition the court to set the appointment aside under Section 75-3-414.

Amended by Chapter 194, 1977 General Session

**75-3-311. Informal appointment unavailable in certain cases.**

If an application for informal appointment indicates the existence of a possible unrevoked testamentary instrument which may relate to property subject to the laws of this state, and which is not filed for probate in this court, the registrar shall decline the application.

Enacted by Chapter 150, 1975 General Session

**75-3-401. Formal testacy proceedings -- Nature -- When commenced.**

(1) A formal testacy proceeding is litigation to determine whether a decedent left a valid will. A formal testacy proceeding may be commenced by an interested person filing a petition as described in Subsection 75-3-402(1) in which he requests that the court, after notice and hearing, enter an order probating a will, or a petition to set aside

an informal probate of a will or to prevent informal probate of a will which is the subject of a pending application, or a petition in accordance with Subsection 75-3-402(3) for an order that the decedent died intestate.

(2) A petition may seek formal probate of a will without regard to whether the same or a conflicting will has been informally probated. A formal testacy proceeding may, but need not, involve a request for appointment of a personal representative.

(3) During the pendency of a formal testacy proceeding, the registrar shall not act upon any application for informal probate of any will of the decedent or any application for informal appointment of a personal representative of the decedent.

(4) Unless a petition in a formal testacy proceeding also requests confirmation of the previous informal appointment, a previously appointed personal representative, after receipt of notice of the commencement of a formal probate proceeding, must refrain from exercising his power to make any further distribution of the estate during the pendency of the formal proceeding. A petitioner who seeks the appointment of a different personal representative in a formal proceeding also may request an order restraining the acting personal representative from exercising any of the powers of his office and requesting the appointment of a special administrator. In the absence of a request, or if the request is denied, the commencement of a formal proceeding has no effect on the powers and duties of a previously appointed personal representative other than those relating to distribution.

Amended by Chapter 194, 1977 General Session

**75-3-402. Formal testacy or appointment proceedings -- Petition -- Contents.**

(1) Petitions for formal probate of a will, or for adjudication of intestacy with or without request for appointment of a personal representative, shall be directed to the court, request a judicial order after notice and hearing, and contain further statements as indicated in this section. A petition for formal probate of a will:

(a) requests an order as to the testacy of the decedent in relation to a particular instrument which may or may not have been informally probated and determining the heirs;

(b) contains the statements required for informal applications as stated in Subsection 75-3-301(2) and the statements required by Subsections 75-3-301(3)(b) and (c), and, if the petition requests appointment of a personal representative, the statements required by Subsection 75-3-301(4); and

(c) states whether the original of the last will of the decedent is in the possession of the court, accompanies the petition, or was presented to the court for electronic storage or electronic filing and is not in the possession of the petitioner or the petitioner's attorney.

(2) If the original will is not in the possession of the court, has not been presented to the court for electronic storage or electronic filing, does not accompany the petition, and no authenticated copy of a will probated in another jurisdiction accompanies the petition, the petition also shall state the contents of the will and indicate that it is lost, destroyed, or otherwise unavailable.

(3) A petition for adjudication of intestacy and appointment of an administrator in

intestacy shall request a judicial finding and order that the decedent left no will and, determining the heirs, contain the statements required by Subsections 75-3-301(2) and 75-3-301(5) and indicate whether supervised administration is sought. A petition may request an order determining intestacy and heirs without requesting the appointment of an administrator, in which case, the statements required by Subsection 75-3-301(5)(b) may be omitted.

Amended by Chapter 364, 2013 General Session

**75-3-403. Formal testacy proceeding -- Notice of hearing on petition.**

(1) Upon commencement of a formal testacy proceeding, the court shall fix a time and place of hearing. Notice shall be given in the manner prescribed by Section 75-1-401 by the petitioner to the persons herein enumerated and to any additional person who has filed a demand for notice under Section 75-3-204. Notice shall be given to the following persons: the surviving spouse, children, and other heirs of the decedent, the devisees and executors named in any will that is being, or has been, probated, or offered for informal or formal probate in the county, or that is known by the petitioner to have been probated, or offered for informal or formal probate elsewhere, and any personal representative of the decedent whose appointment has not been terminated. Notice may be given to other persons. In addition, the petitioner shall give notice by publication to all unknown persons and to all known persons whose addresses are unknown who have any interest in the matters being litigated.

(2) If it appears by the petition or otherwise that the fact of the death of the alleged decedent may be in doubt, or on the written demand of any interested person, a copy of the notice of the hearing on the petition shall be sent by registered mail to the alleged decedent at his last known address. The court shall direct the petitioner to report the results of, or make and report back concerning, a reasonably diligent search for the alleged decedent in any manner that may seem advisable, including any or all of the following methods:

(a) By inserting in one or more suitable periodicals a notice requesting information from any person having knowledge of the whereabouts of the alleged decedent;

(b) By notifying law enforcement officials and public welfare agencies in appropriate locations of the disappearance of the alleged decedent;

(c) By engaging the services of an investigator. The costs of any search so directed shall be paid by the petitioner if there is no administration or by the estate of the decedent in case there is administration.

Enacted by Chapter 150, 1975 General Session

**75-3-404. Formal testacy proceedings -- Written objections to probate.**

Any party to a formal proceeding who opposes the probate of a will for any reason shall state in his pleadings his objections to probate of the will.

Enacted by Chapter 150, 1975 General Session

**75-3-405. Formal testacy proceedings -- Uncontested cases -- Hearings and proof.**

If a petition in a testacy proceeding is unopposed, the court may order probate or intestacy on the strength of the pleadings if satisfied that the conditions of Section 75-3-409 have been met or conduct a hearing in open court and require proof of the matters necessary to support the order sought. If evidence concerning execution of the will is necessary, the affidavit or testimony of one of any attesting witnesses to the instrument is sufficient. If the affidavit or testimony of an attesting witness is not available, execution of the will may be proved by other evidence or affidavit.

Enacted by Chapter 150, 1975 General Session

**75-3-406. Formal testacy proceedings -- Contested cases -- Testimony of attesting witnesses.**

(1) If evidence concerning execution of an attested will which is not self-proved is necessary in contested cases, the testimony of at least one of the attesting witnesses, if within the state, competent, and able to testify, is required. Due execution of an attested or unattested will may be proved by other evidence.

(2) If the will is self-proved, compliance with signature requirements for execution is conclusively presumed and other requirements of execution are presumed subject to rebuttal without the testimony of any witness upon filing the will and the acknowledgment and affidavits annexed or attached thereto, unless there is proof of fraud or forgery affecting the acknowledgment or affidavit.

Enacted by Chapter 150, 1975 General Session

**75-3-407. Formal testacy proceedings -- Burdens in contested cases.**

(1) In contested cases, petitioners who seek to establish intestacy have the burden of establishing prima facie proof of death, venue, and heirship. Proponents of a will have the burden of establishing prima facie proof of due execution in all cases, and if they are also petitioners, prima facie proof of death and venue. Contestants of a will have the burden of establishing lack of testamentary intent or capacity, undue influence, fraud, duress, mistake, or revocation. Except in cases where a presumption is operable, parties have the ultimate burden of persuasion as to matters with respect to which they have the initial burden of proof. Where one or more presumptions are operable, the ultimate burden of persuasion shall be determined in accordance with the Utah Rules of Evidence.

(2) If a will is opposed by the petition for probate of a later will revoking the former, it shall be determined first whether the later will is entitled to probate, and if a will is opposed by a petition for a declaration of intestacy, it shall be determined first whether the will is entitled to probate.

Amended by Chapter 179, 1992 General Session

**75-3-408. Formal testacy proceedings -- Will construction -- Effect of final order in another jurisdiction.**

A final order of a court of another state determining testacy, the validity, or construction of a will, made in a proceeding involving notice to and an opportunity for contest by all interested persons must be accepted as determinative by the courts of this state if it includes, or is based upon, a finding that the decedent was domiciled at his death in the state where the order was made.

Enacted by Chapter 150, 1975 General Session

**75-3-409. Formal testacy proceedings -- Order -- Foreign will.**

After the time required for any notice has expired, upon proof of notice, and after any hearing that may be necessary, if the court finds that the testator is dead, venue is proper and that the proceeding was commenced within the limitation prescribed by Section 75-3-107, it shall determine the decedent's domicile at death, his heirs, and his state of testacy. Any will found to be valid and unrevoked shall be formally probated. Termination of any previous informal appointment of a personal representative, which may be appropriate in view of the relief requested and findings, is governed by Section 75-3-612. The petition shall be dismissed or appropriate amendment allowed if the court is not satisfied that the alleged decedent is dead. A will from a place which does not provide for probate of a will after death may be proved for probate in this state by a duly authenticated certificate of its legal custodian that the copy introduced is a true copy and that the will has become effective under the law of the other place.

Enacted by Chapter 150, 1975 General Session

**75-3-410. Formal testacy proceedings -- Probate of more than one instrument.**

If two or more instruments are offered for probate before a final order is entered in a formal testacy proceeding, more than one instrument may be probated if neither expressly revokes the other or contains provisions which work a total revocation by implication. If more than one instrument is probated, the order shall indicate what provisions control in respect to the nomination of an executor, if any. The order may, but need not, indicate how any provisions of a particular instrument are affected by the other instrument. After a final order in a testacy proceeding has been entered, no petition for probate of any other instrument of the decedent may be entertained, except incident to a petition to vacate or modify a previous probate order and subject to the time limits of Section 75-3-412.

Enacted by Chapter 150, 1975 General Session

**75-3-411. Formal testacy proceedings -- Partial intestacy.**

If it becomes evident in the course of a formal testacy proceeding that, though one or more instruments are entitled to be probated, the decedent's estate is or may be partially intestate, the court shall enter an order to that effect.

Enacted by Chapter 150, 1975 General Session

**75-3-412. Formal testacy proceedings -- Effect of order -- Vacation.**

(1) Subject to appeal and subject to vacation as provided in this section and in Section 75-3-413, a formal testacy order under this part, including an order that the decedent left no valid will and determining heirs, is final as to all persons with respect to all issues concerning the decedent's estate that the court considered or might have considered incident to its rendition relevant to the question of whether the decedent left a valid will, and to the determination of heirs, except that:

(a) The court shall entertain a petition for modification or vacation of its order and probate of another will of the decedent if it is shown that the proponents of the later-offered will were unaware of its existence at the time of the earlier proceeding or were unaware of the earlier proceeding and were given no notice of it, except by publication.

(b) If intestacy of all or part of the estate has been ordered, the determination of heirs of the decedent may be reconsidered if it is shown that one or more persons were omitted from the determination and it is also shown that the persons were unaware of their relationship to the decedent, were unaware of his death, or were given no notice of any proceeding concerning his estate, except by publication.

(c) The order originally rendered in the testacy proceeding may be modified or vacated, if appropriate under the circumstances, by the order of probate of the later-offered will or the order redetermining heirs.

(d) The finding of the fact of death is conclusive as to the alleged decedent only if notice of the hearing on the petition in the formal testacy proceeding was sent by registered or certified mail addressed to the alleged decedent at his last known address and the court finds that a search under Subsection 75-3-403(2) was made.

(2) If the alleged decedent is not dead, even if notice was sent and search was made, he may recover estate assets in the hands of the personal representative. In addition to any remedies available to the alleged decedent by reason of any fraud or intentional wrongdoing, the alleged decedent may recover any estate or its proceeds from distributees that is in their hands, or the value of distributions received by them, to the extent that any recovery from distributees is equitable in view of all of the circumstances.

(3) A petition for vacation under either Subsections (1)(a) or (b) must be filed prior to the earlier of the following time limits:

(a) If a personal representative has been appointed for the estate, the time of entry of any order approving final distribution of the estate, or, if the estate is closed by statement, six months after the filing of the closing statement.

(b) Whether or not a personal representative has been appointed for the estate of the decedent, the time prescribed by Section 75-3-107 when it is no longer possible to initiate an original proceeding to probate a will of the decedent.

(c) Twelve months after the entry of the order sought to be vacated.

Enacted by Chapter 150, 1975 General Session

**75-3-413. Formal testacy proceedings -- Vacation of order for other cause.**

For good cause shown, an order in a formal testacy proceeding may be modified or vacated within the time allowed for appeal.



Enacted by Chapter 150, 1975 General Session

**75-3-414. Formal proceedings concerning appointment of personal representative.**

(1) A formal proceeding for adjudication regarding the priority or qualification of one who is an applicant for appointment as personal representative, or of one who previously has been appointed personal representative in informal proceedings, if an issue concerning the testacy of the decedent is or may be involved, is governed by Section 75-3-402, as well as by this section. In other cases, the petition shall contain or adopt the statements required by Subsection 75-3-301(2) and describe the question relating to priority or qualification of the personal representative which is to be resolved. If the proceeding precedes any appointment of a personal representative, it shall stay any pending informal appointment proceedings as well as any commenced thereafter. If the proceeding is commenced after appointment, the previously appointed personal representative, after receipt of notice thereof, shall refrain from exercising any power of administration except as necessary to preserve the estate or unless the court orders otherwise.

(2) After notice to interested persons, including all persons interested in the administration of the estate as successors under the applicable assumption concerning testacy, any previously appointed personal representative and any person having or claiming priority for appointment as personal representative, the court shall determine who is entitled to appointment under Section 75-3-203, make a proper appointment and, if appropriate, terminate any prior appointment found to have been improper as provided in cases of removal under Section 75-3-611.

Amended by Chapter 194, 1977 General Session

**75-3-501. Nature of proceeding.**

Supervised administration is a single in rem proceeding to secure complete administration and settlement of a decedent's estate under the continuing authority of the court which extends until entry of an order approving distribution of the estate and discharging the personal representative or other order terminating the proceeding. A supervised personal representative is responsible to the court, as well as to the interested parties, and is subject to directions concerning the estate made by the court on its own motion or on the motion of any interested party. Except as otherwise provided in this part, or as otherwise ordered by the court, a supervised personal representative has the same duties and powers as a personal representative who is not supervised.

Enacted by Chapter 150, 1975 General Session

**75-3-502. Petition -- Order.**

A petition for supervised administration may be filed by any interested person or by a personal representative at any time or the prayer for supervised administration may be joined with a petition in a testacy or appointment proceeding. If the testacy of

the decedent and the priority and qualification of any personal representative have not been adjudicated previously, the petition for supervised administration shall include the matters required of a petition in a formal testacy proceeding and the notice requirements and procedures applicable to a formal testacy proceeding apply. If not previously adjudicated, the court shall adjudicate the testacy of the decedent and questions relating to the priority and qualifications of the personal representative in any case involving a request for supervised administration, even though the request for supervised administration may be denied. After notice to interested persons, the court shall order supervised administration of a decedent's estate:

(1) If the decedent's will directs supervised administration, it shall be ordered unless the court finds that circumstances bearing on the need for supervised administration have changed since the execution of the will and that there is no necessity for supervised administration.

(2) If the decedent's will directs unsupervised administration, supervised administration shall be ordered only upon a finding that it is necessary for protection of persons interested in the estate.

(3) In other cases if the court finds that supervised administration is necessary under the circumstances.

Amended by Chapter 30, 1992 General Session

**75-3-503. Effect on other proceedings.**

(1) The pendency of a proceeding for supervised administration of a decedent's estate stays action on any informal application then pending or thereafter filed.

(2) If a will has been previously probated in informal proceedings, the effect of the filing of a petition for supervised administration is as provided for formal testacy proceedings by Section 75-3-401.

(3) After he has received notice of the filing of a petition for supervised administration, a personal representative who has been appointed previously shall not exercise his power to distribute any estate. The filing of the petition does not affect his other powers and duties unless the court restricts the exercise of any of them pending full hearing on the petition.

Enacted by Chapter 150, 1975 General Session

**75-3-504. Powers of personal representative.**

Unless restricted by the court, a supervised personal representative has, without interim orders approving exercise of a power, all powers of personal representatives under this code, but he shall not exercise his power to make any distribution of the estate without prior order of the court. Any other restriction on the power of a personal representative which may be ordered by the court must be endorsed on his letters of appointment and, unless so endorsed, is ineffective as to persons dealing in good faith with the personal representative.

Enacted by Chapter 150, 1975 General Session

**75-3-505. Interim orders -- Distribution and closing orders.**

Unless otherwise ordered by the court, supervised administration is terminated by order in accordance with time restrictions, notices, and contents of orders prescribed for proceedings under Section 75-3-1001. Interim orders approving or directing partial distributions or granting other relief may be issued by the court at any time during the pendency of a supervised administration on the application of the personal representative or any interested person.

Enacted by Chapter 150, 1975 General Session

**75-3-601. Qualification.**

Prior to receiving letters, a personal representative shall qualify by filing with the appointing court any required bond and a statement of acceptance of the duties of the office.

Enacted by Chapter 150, 1975 General Session

**75-3-602. Acceptance of appointment -- Consent to jurisdiction.**

By accepting appointment, a personal representative submits personally to the jurisdiction of the court in any proceeding relating to the estate that may be instituted by any interested person. Notice of any proceeding shall be delivered to the personal representative, or mailed to him by ordinary first-class mail at his address as listed in the application or petition for appointment or as thereafter reported to the court and to his address as then known to the petitioner.

Enacted by Chapter 150, 1975 General Session

**75-3-603. Bond not required -- Exceptions.**

No bond is required of a personal representative appointed in formal or informal proceedings, except (1) upon the appointment of a special administrator without notice having been given, (2) when an executor or other personal representative is appointed to administer an estate under a will containing an express requirement of bond, (3) when bond is requested prior to appointment, by an interested party, or (4) when bond is required under Section 75-3-605. No bond is required of any personal representative who is exempted from bond under Title 7. Bond required pursuant to this section may be dispensed with upon a determination by the court that it is not necessary.

Enacted by Chapter 226, 1983 General Session

**75-3-604. Bond amount -- Security -- Procedure -- Reduction.**

If bond is required and the provisions of the will or order do not specify the amount, unless stated in his application or petition, the person qualifying shall file a statement under oath with the clerk indicating his best estimate of the value of the personal and real estate of the decedent and of the income expected from the personal and real estate during the next year, and he shall execute and file a bond with the clerk, or give other suitable security, in an amount not less than the estimate reduced by the

amount of secured claims against such property. The clerk shall determine that the bond is duly executed by a corporate surety, or one or more individual sureties whose performance is secured by pledge of personal property, mortgage on real property, or other adequate security. The clerk may permit the amount of the bond to be reduced by the value of assets of the estate deposited with a domestic financial institution (as defined in Section 75-6-101) in a manner that prevents their unauthorized disposition. On petition of the personal representative or another interested person the court may excuse a requirement of bond, increase or reduce the amount of the bond, release sureties, or permit the substitution of another bond with the same or different sureties.

Enacted by Chapter 150, 1975 General Session

**75-3-605. Demand for bond by interested person.**

If bond is excused as provided in Section 75-3-603, any person apparently having an interest in the estate worth in excess of \$5,000, or any unsecured creditors having a claim in excess of \$5,000, may make a written demand that a personal representative give bond. The demand shall be filed with the registrar and a copy mailed to the personal representative, if appointment and qualification have occurred. Thereupon, bond is required, but the requirement ceases if the person demanding bond ceases to be interested in the estate, or withdraws the demand. After he has received notice and until the filing of the bond or cessation of the requirement of bond, the personal representative shall refrain from exercising any powers of his office except as necessary to preserve the estate. Failure of the personal representative to meet a requirement of bond by giving suitable bond within 30 days after receipt of notice is cause for his removal and appointment of a successor personal representative.

Amended by Chapter 21, 1985 General Session

**75-3-606. Terms and conditions of bonds.**

(1) The following requirements and provisions apply to any bond required by this part:

(a) Bonds shall name the state as obligee for the benefit of the persons interested in the estate and shall be conditioned upon the faithful discharge by the fiduciary of all duties according to law.

(b) Unless otherwise provided by the terms of the approved bond, sureties are jointly and severally liable with the personal representative and with each other. The address of sureties shall be stated in the bond.

(c) By executing an approved bond of a personal representative, the surety consents to the jurisdiction of the probate court which issued letters to the primary obligor in any proceedings pertaining to the fiduciary duties of the personal representative and naming the surety as a party. Notice of any proceeding shall be delivered to the surety or mailed to him by registered or certified mail at his address as listed with the court where the bond is filed and to his address as then known to the petitioner.

(d) On petition of a successor personal representative, any other personal representative of the same decedent, or any interested person, a proceeding in the

court may be initiated against a surety for breach of the obligation of the bond of the personal representative.

(e) The bond of the personal representative is not void after the first recovery but may be proceeded against from time to time until the whole penalty is exhausted.

(2) No action or proceeding may be commenced against the surety on any matter as to which an action or proceeding against the primary obligor is barred by adjudication or limitation.

Enacted by Chapter 150, 1975 General Session

**75-3-607. Order restraining personal representative.**

(1) On petition of any person who appears to have an interest in the estate, the court by temporary order may restrain a personal representative from performing specified acts of administration, disbursement, or distribution, or exercise of any powers or discharge of any duties of his office, or make any other order to secure proper performance of his duty, if it appears to the court that the personal representative otherwise may take some action which would jeopardize unreasonably the interest of the applicant or of some other interested person. Persons with whom the personal representative may transact business may be made parties.

(2) The matter shall be set for hearing within 10 days unless the parties otherwise agree. Notice as the court directs shall be given to the personal representative and his attorney of record, if any, and to any other parties named defendant in the petition.

(3) Upon petition made by any guardian, conservator, protected person, ward, creditor, or other person interested in the estate as an heir, devisee or otherwise, against any person suspected of having concealed, embezzled, or smuggled, laid away or disposed of any money, goods, or chattels of the decedent or to have in his possession or subject to his knowledge, any deeds, conveyances, bonds, contracts, or other writings, or any personal estate, or any other claim or demand or any last will of the decedent, the court may cite the suspected person to appear before it and may examine and proceed with him on the charge; and if on such examination it appears that he has wrongful possession of any such items, the court may order the delivery of the same to the personal representative, guardian, or conservator.

Amended by Chapter 194, 1977 General Session

**75-3-608. Termination of appointment -- General.**

Termination of appointment of a personal representative occurs as indicated in Sections 75-3-609 through 75-3-612. Termination ends the right and power pertaining to the office of personal representative as conferred by this code or any will, except that a personal representative, at any time prior to distribution or until restrained or enjoined by court order, may perform acts necessary to protect the estate and may deliver the assets to a successor representative. Termination does not discharge a personal representative from liability for transactions or omissions occurring before termination or relieve him of the duty to preserve assets subject to his control, to account therefor, and to deliver the assets. Termination does not affect the jurisdiction of the court over the

personal representative but terminates his authority to represent the estate in any pending or future proceeding.

Enacted by Chapter 150, 1975 General Session

**75-3-609. Termination of appointment -- Death or disability.**

The death of a personal representative or the appointment of a conservator for the estate of a personal representative, terminates his appointment. Until appointment and qualification of a successor or special representative to replace the deceased or protected representative, the representative of the estate of the deceased or protected personal representative, if any, has the duty to protect the estate possessed and being administered by his decedent or ward at the time his appointment terminates, has the power to perform acts necessary for protection, and shall account for and deliver the estate assets to a successor or special personal representative upon his appointment and qualification.

Enacted by Chapter 150, 1975 General Session

**75-3-610. Termination of appointment -- Voluntary.**

(1) An appointment of a personal representative terminates as provided in Section 75-3-1003, one year after the filing of a closing statement.

(2) An order closing an estate as provided in Section 75-3-1001 or 75-3-1002 terminates an appointment of a personal representative.

(3) A personal representative may resign his position by filing a written statement of resignation with the registrar after he has given at least 15 days' written notice to the persons known to be interested in the estate. If no one applies or petitions for appointment of a successor representative within the time indicated in the notice, the filed statement of resignation is ineffective as a termination of appointment and in any event is effective only upon the appointment and qualification of a successor representative and delivery of the assets to him.

Enacted by Chapter 150, 1975 General Session

**75-3-611. Termination of appointment by removal -- Cause -- Procedure.**

(1) A person interested in the estate may petition for removal of a personal representative for cause at any time. Upon filing of the petition, the court shall fix a time and place for hearing. Notice shall be given by the petitioner to the personal representative and to other persons as the court may order. Except as otherwise ordered as provided in Section 75-3-607, after receipt of notice of removal proceedings, the personal representative shall not act except to account, correct maladministration, or preserve the estate. If removal is ordered, the court also shall direct by order the disposition of the assets remaining in the name of, or under the control of, the personal representative being removed.

(2) Cause for removal exists:

(a) When removal would be in the best interest of the estate.

(b) If it is shown that a personal representative or the person seeking his

appointment intentionally misrepresented material facts in the proceedings leading to his appointment.

(c) If it is shown that the personal representative has disregarded an order of the court, has become incapable of discharging the duties of his office, has mismanaged the estate, or failed to perform any duty pertaining to the office.

(3) Unless the decedent's will directs otherwise, a personal representative appointed at the decedent's domicile, incident to securing appointment of himself or his nominee as ancillary personal representative, may obtain removal of another who was appointed personal representative in this state to administer local assets.

Enacted by Chapter 150, 1975 General Session

**75-3-612. Termination of appointment -- Change of testacy status.**

Except as otherwise ordered in formal proceedings, the probate of a will subsequent to the appointment of a personal representative in intestacy or under a will which is superseded by formal probate of another will, or the vacation of an informal probate of a will subsequent to the appointment of the personal representative thereunder, does not terminate the appointment of the personal representative although his powers may be reduced as provided in Section 75-3-401. Termination occurs upon appointment in informal or formal appointment proceedings of a person entitled to appointment under the later assumption concerning testacy. If no request for new appointment is made within 30 days after expiration of time for appeal from the order in formal testacy proceedings, or from the informal probate, changing the assumption concerning testacy, the previously appointed personal representative upon request may be appointed personal representative under the subsequently probated will, or as in intestacy as the case may be.

Enacted by Chapter 150, 1975 General Session

**75-3-613. Successor personal representative.**

Parts 3 and 4 of this chapter govern proceedings for appointment of a personal representative to succeed one whose appointment has been terminated. After appointment and qualification, a successor personal representative may be substituted in all actions and proceedings to which the former personal representative was a party; and no notice, process, or claim which was given or served upon the former personal representative need be given to or served upon the successor in order to preserve any position or right the person giving the notice or filing the claim may thereby have obtained or preserved with reference to the former personal representative. Except as otherwise ordered by the court, the successor personal representative has the powers and duties in respect to the continued administration which the former personal representative would have had if his appointment had not been terminated.

Enacted by Chapter 150, 1975 General Session

**75-3-614. Special administrator -- Appointment.**

(1) A special administrator may be appointed:

(a) Informally by the registrar on the application of any interested person when necessary to protect the estate of a decedent prior to the appointment of a general personal representative or if a prior appointment has been terminated as provided in Section 75-3-609;

(b) In a formal proceeding by order of the court on the petition of any interested person and finding, after notice and hearing, that appointment is necessary to preserve the estate or to secure its proper administration including its administration in circumstances where a general personal representative cannot or should not act. If it appears to the court that an emergency exists, appointment may be ordered without notice.

Enacted by Chapter 150, 1975 General Session

**75-3-615. Appointment of special administrators.**

(1) If a special administrator is to be appointed pending the probate of a will which is the subject of a pending application or petition for probate, the court shall prefer the appointment of the person named personal representative in the decedent's last will if available and qualified. In appropriate cases, the court may limit the powers given to the special administrator, it may appoint someone else to be special administrator, or it may otherwise act to protect the estate and interested persons.

(2) In other cases, any proper person may be appointed special administrator.

Amended by Chapter 179, 1992 General Session

**75-3-616. Special administrator -- Appointed informally -- Powers and duties.**

A special administrator appointed by the registrar in informal proceedings pursuant to Subsection 75-3-614(1)(a) has the duty to collect and manage the assets of the estate, to preserve them, to account therefor and to deliver them to the general personal representative upon his qualification. The special administrator has the power of a personal representative under the code necessary to perform his duties.

Enacted by Chapter 150, 1975 General Session

**75-3-617. Special administrator -- Formal proceedings -- Power and duties.**

A special administrator appointed by order of the court in any formal proceeding has the power of a general personal representative except as limited in the appointment and duties as prescribed in the order. The appointment may be for a specified time, to perform particular acts, or on other terms as the court may direct.

Enacted by Chapter 150, 1975 General Session

**75-3-618. Termination of appointment -- Special administrator.**

The appointment of a special administrator terminates in accordance with the provisions of the order of appointment or on the appointment of a general personal representative. In other cases, the appointment of a special administrator is subject to



termination as provided in Sections 75-3-608 through 75-3-611.

Enacted by Chapter 150, 1975 General Session

**75-3-701. Time of accrual of duties and powers.**

The duties and powers of a personal representative commence upon his appointment. The powers of a personal representative relate back in time to give acts by the person appointed which are beneficial to the estate occurring prior to appointment the same effect as those occurring thereafter. Prior to appointment, a person named executor in a will may carry out written instructions of the decedent relating to his body, funeral, and burial arrangements. A personal representative may ratify and accept acts on behalf of the estate done by others where the acts would have been proper for a personal representative.

Enacted by Chapter 150, 1975 General Session

**75-3-702. Priority among different letters.**

A person to whom general letters are issued first has exclusive authority under the letters until his appointment is terminated or modified. If, through error, general letters are afterwards issued to another, the first appointed representative may recover any property of the estate in the hands of the representative subsequently appointed, but the acts of the latter done in good faith before notice of the first letters are not void for want of validity of appointment.

Enacted by Chapter 150, 1975 General Session

**75-3-703. General duties -- Relation and liability to persons interested in estate -- Standing to sue.**

(1) A personal representative is a fiduciary who shall observe the standard of care applicable to trustees as described by Section 75-7-902. A personal representative is under a duty to settle and distribute the estate of the decedent in accordance with the terms of any probated and effective will and this code and as expeditiously and efficiently as is consistent with the best interests of the estate. He shall use the authority conferred upon him by this code, the terms of the will, if any, and any order in proceedings to which he is party for the best interests of successors to the estate.

(2) A personal representative shall not be surcharged for acts of administration or distribution if the conduct in question was authorized at the time. Subject to other obligations of administration, an informally probated will is authority to administer and distribute the estate according to its terms. An order of appointment of a personal representative, whether issued in informal or formal proceedings, is authority to distribute apparently intestate assets to the heirs of the decedent if, at the time of distribution, the personal representative is not aware of a pending testacy proceeding, a proceeding to vacate an order entered in an earlier testacy proceeding, a formal proceeding questioning his appointment or fitness to continue, or a supervised administration proceeding. Nothing in this section affects the duty of the personal

representative to administer and distribute the estate in accordance with the rights of claimants, the surviving spouse, any minor and dependent children, and any pretermitted child of the decedent as described elsewhere in this code.

(3) Except as to proceedings which do not survive the death of the decedent, a personal representative of a decedent domiciled in this state at his death has the same standing to sue and be sued in the courts of this state and courts of any other jurisdiction as his decedent had immediately prior to death.

Amended by Chapter 89, 2004 General Session

**75-3-704. Personal representative to proceed without court order -- Exception.**

A personal representative shall proceed expeditiously with the settlement and distribution of a decedent's estate and except as otherwise specified or ordered in regard to a supervised personal representative, do so without adjudication, order, or direction of the court, but may invoke the jurisdiction of the court in proceedings authorized by this code to resolve questions concerning the estate or its administration.

Amended by Chapter 110, 1988 General Session

**75-3-705. Duty of personal representative -- Inventory and appraisalment.**

Within three months after his appointment, a personal representative, who is not a special administrator or a successor to another representative who has previously discharged this duty, shall prepare an inventory of property owned by the decedent at the time of his death, listing it with reasonable detail, and indicating as to each listed item, its fair market value as of the date of the decedent's death, and the type and amount of any encumbrance that may exist with reference to any item. The personal representative shall send a copy of the inventory to interested persons who request it. He may also file the original of the inventory with the court.

Amended by Chapter 194, 1977 General Session

**75-3-706. Employment of appraisers.**

The personal representative may employ a qualified and disinterested appraiser to assist him in ascertaining the fair market value as of the date of the decedent's death of any asset the value of which may be subject to reasonable doubt. Different persons may be employed to appraise different kinds of assets included in the estate. The names and addresses of any appraiser shall be indicated on the inventory with the item or items he appraised.

Enacted by Chapter 150, 1975 General Session

**75-3-707. Duty of personal representative -- Supplementary inventory.**

If any property not included in the original inventory comes to the knowledge of a personal representative or if the personal representative learns that the value or description indicated in the original inventory for any item is erroneous or misleading, he

shall make a supplementary inventory or appraisal showing the market value as of the date of the decedent's death of the new item or the revised market value or descriptions, and the appraisers or other data relied upon, if any, and file it with the court if the original inventory was filed, or furnish copies thereof or information thereof to persons interested in the new information.

Enacted by Chapter 150, 1975 General Session

**75-3-708. Duty of personal representative -- Possession of estate.**

Except as otherwise provided by a decedent's will, every personal representative has a right to, and shall take possession or control of, the decedent's property, except that any real property or tangible personal property may be left with or surrendered to the person presumptively entitled thereto unless or until, in the judgment of the personal representative, possession of the property by him will be necessary for purposes of administration. The request by a personal representative for delivery of any property possessed by an heir or devisee is conclusive evidence, in any action against the heir or devisee for possession thereof, that the possession of the property by the personal representative is necessary for purposes of administration. The personal representative shall pay taxes on, and take all steps reasonably necessary for the management, protection, and preservation of, the estate in his possession. He may maintain an action to recover possession of property or to determine the title thereto.

Enacted by Chapter 150, 1975 General Session

**75-3-709. Power to avoid transfers.**

The property liable for the payment of unsecured debts of a decedent includes all property transferred by him by any means which is in law void or voidable as against his creditors, and subject to prior liens, the right to recover this property, so far as necessary for the payment of unsecured debts of the decedent, is exclusively in the personal representative. The personal representative is not required to institute such an action unless requested by creditors who must pay or secure the cost and expenses of litigation.

Enacted by Chapter 150, 1975 General Session

**75-3-710. Powers of personal representatives -- In general.**

Until termination of his appointment a personal representative has the same power over the title to property of the estate that an absolute owner would have, in trust, however, for the benefit of the creditors and others interested in the estate. This power may be exercised without notice, hearing, or order of court, unless otherwise specifically provided by this code.

Amended by Chapter 226, 1983 General Session

**75-3-711. Improper exercise of power -- Breach of fiduciary duty.**

If the exercise of power concerning the estate is improper, the personal

representative is liable to interested persons for damage or loss resulting from breach of his fiduciary duty to the same extent as a trustee of an express trust. The rights of purchasers and others dealing with a personal representative shall be determined as provided in Sections 75-3-712 and 75-3-713.

Enacted by Chapter 150, 1975 General Session

**75-3-712. Sale, encumbrance or transaction involving conflict of interest -- Voidable -- Exceptions.**

Any sale or encumbrance to the personal representative, his spouse, agent, or attorney, or any corporation or trust in which he has a substantial beneficial interest, or any transaction which is affected by a substantial conflict of interest on the part of the personal representative, is voidable by any person interested in the estate, except one who has consented after fair disclosure, unless:

- (1) The will or a contract entered into by the decedent expressly authorized the transaction; or
- (2) The transaction is approved by the court after notice to interested persons.

Amended by Chapter 30, 1992 General Session

**75-3-713. Persons dealing with personal representative -- Protection.**

A person who in good faith either assists a personal representative or deals with him for value is protected as if the personal representative properly exercised his power. The fact that a person knowingly deals with a personal representative does not alone require the person to inquire into the existence of a power or the propriety of its exercise. Except for restrictions on powers of supervised personal representatives which are endorsed on letters as provided in Section 75-3-504, no provision in any will or order of court purporting to limit the power of a personal representative is effective except as to persons with actual knowledge thereof. A person is not bound to see to the proper application of estate assets paid or delivered to a personal representative. The protection here expressed extends to instances in which some procedural irregularity or jurisdictional defect occurred in proceedings leading to the issuance of letters, including a case in which the alleged decedent is found to be alive. The protection here expressed is not by substitution for that provided by comparable provisions of the laws relating to commercial transactions and laws simplifying transfers of securities by fiduciaries.

Enacted by Chapter 150, 1975 General Session

**75-3-714. Transactions authorized for personal representatives -- Exceptions.**

Except as restricted or otherwise provided by this code, by the will or by an order in a formal proceeding and subject to the priorities stated in Section 75-3-902, a personal representative, acting reasonably for the benefit of the interested persons, may properly:

- (1) retain assets owned by the decedent pending distribution or liquidation

including those in which the representative is personally interested or which are otherwise improper for trust investment;

(2) receive assets from fiduciaries, or other sources;

(3) perform, compromise, or refuse performance of the decedent's contracts that continue as obligations of the estate, as he may determine under the circumstances. In performing enforceable contracts by the decedent to convey or lease land, the personal representative, among other possible courses of action, may:

(a) execute and deliver a deed of conveyance for cash payment of all sums remaining due on the purchaser's note for the sum remaining due secured by a mortgage or deed of trust on the land; or

(b) deliver a deed in escrow with directions that the proceeds, when paid in accordance with the escrow agreement, be paid to the successors of the decedent, as designated in the escrow agreement;

(4) satisfy written charitable pledges of the decedent irrespective of whether the pledges constituted binding obligations of the decedent or were properly presented as claims, if in the judgment of the personal representative the decedent would have wanted the pledges completed under the circumstances;

(5) if funds are not needed to meet debts and expenses currently payable and are not immediately distributable, deposit or invest liquid assets of the estate, including money received from the sale of other assets, in federally insured interest-bearing accounts, readily marketable secured loan arrangements, or other prudent investments which would be reasonable for use by trustees generally;

(6) acquire or dispose of an asset, including land in this or another state, for cash or on credit, at public or private sale; and manage, develop, improve, exchange, partition, change the character of, or abandon an estate asset;

(7) make ordinary or extraordinary repairs or alterations in buildings or other structures, demolish any improvements, or raze existing or erect new party walls or buildings;

(8) subdivide, develop, or dedicate land to public use; make or obtain the vacation of plats and adjust boundaries; adjust differences in valuation on exchange or partition by giving or receiving considerations; or dedicate easements to public use without consideration;

(9) enter for any purpose into a lease as lessor or lessee, with or without option to purchase or renew, for a term within or extending beyond the period of administration;

(10) enter into a lease or arrangement for exploration and removal of minerals or other natural resources or enter into a pooling or unitization agreement;

(11) abandon property when, in the opinion of the personal representative, it is valueless, is so encumbered, or is in condition that it is of no benefit to the estate;

(12) vote stocks or other securities in person or by general or limited proxy;

(13) pay calls, assessments, and other sums chargeable or accruing against or on account of securities, unless barred by the provisions relating to claims;

(14) hold a security in the name of a nominee or in other form without disclosure of the interest of the estate but the personal representative is liable for any act of the nominee in connection with the security so held;

(15) insure the assets of the estate against damage, loss, and liability and

himself against liability as to third persons;

(16) borrow money with or without security to be repaid from the estate assets or otherwise; and advance money for the protection of the estate;

(17) effect a fair and reasonable compromise with any debtor or obligor, or extend, renew, or in any manner modify the terms of any obligation owing to the estate. If the personal representative holds a mortgage, pledge, or other lien upon property of another person, he may, in lieu of foreclosure, accept a conveyance or transfer of encumbered assets from the owner thereof in satisfaction of the indebtedness secured by lien;

(18) pay taxes, assessments, compensation of the personal representative, and other expenses incident to the administration of the estate;

(19) sell or exercise stock subscription or conversion rights; and consent, directly or through a committee or other agent, to the reorganization, consolidation, merger, dissolution, or liquidation of a corporation or other business enterprise;

(20) allocate items of income or expense to either estate income or principal, as permitted or provided by law;

(21) employ persons, including attorneys, auditors, investment advisers, or agents, even if they are associated with the personal representative, to advise or assist the personal representative in the performance of his administrative duties; act without independent investigation upon their recommendations; and instead of acting personally, employ one or more agents to perform any act of administration, whether or not discretionary;

(22) prosecute or defend claims or proceedings in any jurisdiction for the protection of the estate and of the personal representative in the performance of his duties;

(23) sell, mortgage, or lease any real or personal property of the estate or any interest in it for cash, credit, or for part cash and part credit, and with or without security for unpaid balances;

(24) continue any unincorporated business or venture in which the decedent was engaged at the time of his death:

(a) in the same business form for a period of not more than four months from the date of appointment of a general personal representative if continuation is a reasonable means of preserving the value of the business including good will;

(b) in the same business form for any additional period of time that may be approved by order of the court in a formal proceeding to which the persons interested in the estate are parties; or

(c) throughout the period of administration if the business is incorporated by the personal representative and if none of the probable distributees of the business who are competent adults object to its incorporation and retention in the estate;

(25) incorporate any business or venture in which the decedent was engaged at the time of his death;

(26) provide for exoneration of the personal representative from personal liability in any contract entered into on behalf of the estate;

(27) satisfy and settle claims and distribute the estate as provided in this code.

Amended by Chapter 30, 1992 General Session

**75-3-715. Powers and duties of successor personal representative.**

A successor personal representative has the same power and duty as the original personal representative to complete the administration and distribution of the estate, as expeditiously as possible, but he shall not exercise any power expressly made personal to the executor named in the will.

Enacted by Chapter 150, 1975 General Session

**75-3-716. Co-representatives -- When joint action required.**

If two or more persons are appointed co-representatives and unless the will provides otherwise, the concurrence of a majority is required on all acts connected with the administration and distribution of the estate. This restriction does not apply when any co-representative receives and receipts for property due the estate, when the concurrence of all cannot readily be obtained in the time reasonably available for emergency action necessary to preserve the estate, or when a co-representative has been delegated to act for the others. Persons dealing with a co-representative if actually unaware that another has been appointed to serve with him or if advised by the personal representative with whom they deal that he has authority to act alone for any of the reasons mentioned herein, are as fully protected as if the person with whom they dealt had been the sole personal representative.

Enacted by Chapter 150, 1975 General Session

**75-3-717. Powers of surviving personal representative.**

Unless the terms of the will otherwise provide, every power exercisable by personal co-representatives may be exercised by the one or more remaining after the appointment of one or more is terminated, and if one of two or more nominated as co-executors is not appointed, those appointed may exercise all the powers incident to the office.

Enacted by Chapter 150, 1975 General Session

**75-3-718. Compensation of personal representative and attorney.**

(1) A personal representative and an attorney are entitled to reasonable compensation for their services. If a petition is filed which either directly or indirectly seeks approval of the personal representative's compensation or the attorney's compensation and if no objection is filed by an interested person to the compensation requested, reasonable compensation shall be the compensation sought in the petition. When an interested person objects to the personal representative's compensation, the court shall determine reasonable compensation for the personal representative based on the quality, quantity, and value of the services rendered to the estate and the circumstances under which those services were rendered, including the practice for other fiduciaries who are in similar circumstances to the personal representative in question. When an interested person objects to the attorney's compensation, the court shall determine reasonable compensation for the attorney.

(2) When a petition seeks approval of or objects to a personal representative's

compensation or an attorney's compensation, at least 10 days before the time set for the hearing of the petition, the petitioner or the petitioner's attorney shall send a copy of the petition to all interested persons either by certified, registered, or first class mail or by hand-delivery.

(3) If a will provides for compensation of the personal representative and there is no contract with the decedent regarding compensation, the personal representative may renounce the provision before qualifying and be entitled to reasonable compensation. A personal representative also may renounce his right to all or any part of the compensation. A written renunciation of fee may be filed with the court.

Amended by Chapter 245, 2013 General Session

**75-3-719. Expenses in estate litigation.**

If any personal representative or person nominated as personal representative defends or prosecutes any proceeding in good faith, whether successful or not, the personal representative is entitled to receive from the estate all necessary expenses and disbursements, including reasonable attorney fees incurred. This provision expressly applies in a will contest to any person nominated as a personal representative in a testamentary instrument submitted in good faith.

Amended by Chapter 274, 2012 General Session

**75-3-720. Proceedings for review of employment of agents and compensation of personal representatives and employees of estate.**

After notice to all interested persons, on petition of an interested person or on appropriate motion if administration is supervised, the propriety of employment of any person by a personal representative, including any attorney, auditor, investment advisor, or other specialized agent or assistant, the reasonableness of the compensation of any person so employed, or the reasonableness of the compensation determined by the personal representative for the personal representative's own services, may be reviewed by the court. Any person who has received excessive compensation from an estate for services rendered may be ordered to make appropriate refunds.

Amended by Chapter 179, 1992 General Session

**75-3-801. Notice to creditors.**

(1) (a) A personal representative, upon appointment, may publish a notice to creditors announcing the personal representative's appointment and address and notifying creditors of the estate to present their claims within three months after the date of the first publication of the notice or be forever barred.

(b) The notice described in Subsection (1)(a) shall be published:

(i) once a week for three successive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the county; and

(ii) in accordance with Section 45-1-101 for three weeks.

(2) A personal representative may give written notice by mail or other delivery to



any creditor, notifying the creditor to present his claim within 90 days from the published notice if given as provided in Subsection (1) above or within 60 days from the mailing or other delivery of the notice, whichever is later, or be forever barred. Written notice shall be the notice described in Subsection (1) above or a similar notice.

(3) The personal representative shall not be liable to any creditor or to any successor of the decedent for giving or failing to give notice under this section.

(4) If the estate is being administered in accordance with Section 75-3-1201, a notice to creditors may be published in an affidavit in accordance with this section by the person claiming to be the successor or the decedent.

Amended by Chapter 364, 2013 General Session

### **75-3-802. Statutes of limitations.**

Unless an estate is insolvent the personal representative, with the consent of all successors whose interests would be affected, may waive any defense of limitations available to the estate. If the defense is not waived, no claim which was barred by any statute of limitations at the time of the decedent's death shall be allowed or paid. The running of any statute of limitations measured from some other event than death and advertisement for claims against a decedent is suspended during the three months following the decedent's death but resumes thereafter as to claims not barred pursuant to the sections which follow. For purposes of any statute of limitations, the proper presentation of a claim under Section 75-3-804 is equivalent to commencement of a proceeding on the claim.

Amended by Chapter 194, 1977 General Session

### **75-3-803. Limitations on presentation of claims.**

(1) All claims against a decedent's estate which arose before the death of the decedent, including claims of the state and any subdivision of it, whether due or to become due, absolute or contingent, liquidated or unliquidated, founded on contract, tort, or other legal basis, if not barred earlier by other statute of limitations, are barred against the estate, the personal representative, and the heirs and devisees of the decedent, unless presented within the earlier of the following dates:

(a) one year after the decedent's death; or

(b) within the time provided by Subsection 75-3-801(2) for creditors who are given actual notice, and where notice is published, within the time provided in Subsection 75-3-801(1) for all claims barred by publication.

(2) In all events, claims barred by the nonclaim statute at the decedent's domicile are also barred in this state.

(3) All claims against a decedent's estate which arise at or after the death of the decedent, including claims of the state and any of its subdivisions, whether due or to become due, absolute or contingent, liquidated or unliquidated, founded on contract, tort, or other legal basis are barred against the estate, the personal representative, and the heirs and devisees of the decedent, unless presented as follows:

(a) a claim based on a contract with the personal representative within three months after performance by the personal representative is due; or

(b) any other claim within the later of three months after it arises, or the time specified in Subsection (1)(a).

(4) Nothing in this section affects or prevents:

(a) any proceeding to enforce any mortgage, pledge, or other lien upon property of the estate;

(b) to the limits of the insurance protection only, any proceeding to establish liability of the decedent or the personal representative for which he is protected by liability insurance; or

(c) collection of compensation for services rendered and reimbursement for expenses advanced by the personal representative or by the attorney or accountant for the personal representative of the estate.

(5) If a personal representative has not been timely appointed in accordance with this chapter, one may be appointed for the limited purposes of Subsection (4)(b) for any claim timely brought against the decedent.

Amended by Chapter 223, 2010 General Session

**75-3-804. Manner of presentation of claims.**

(1) Claims against a decedent's estate may be presented as follows:

(a) The claimant may deliver or mail to the personal representative, or the personal representative's attorney of record, a written statement of the claim indicating its basis, the name and address of the claimant, and the amount claimed, or may file a written statement of the claim, in the form prescribed by rule, with the clerk of the court. The claim is deemed presented on either the receipt of the written statement of claim by the personal representative or the personal representative's attorney of record, or the filing of the claim with the court, whichever occurs first. If a claim is not yet due, the date when it will become due shall be stated. If the claim is contingent or unliquidated, the nature of the uncertainty shall be stated. If the claim is secured, the security shall be described. Failure to describe correctly the security, the nature of any uncertainty, and the due date of a claim not yet due does not invalidate the presentation made.

(b) The claimant may commence a proceeding against the personal representative in any court where the personal representative may be subjected to jurisdiction to obtain payment of the claim against the estate, but the commencement of the proceeding must occur within the time limited for presenting the claim. No presentation of claim is required in regard to matters claimed in proceedings against the decedent which were pending at the time of the decedent's death.

(2) If a claim is presented under Subsection (1)(a), no proceeding thereon may be commenced more than 60 days after the personal representative has mailed a notice of disallowance; but, in the case of a claim which is not presently due or which is contingent or unliquidated, the personal representative may consent to an extension of the 60-day period, or to avoid injustice the court, on petition, may order an extension of the 60-day period, but in no event may the extension run beyond the applicable statute of limitations.

Amended by Chapter 110, 1988 General Session

**75-3-805. Classification of claims.**

(1) If the applicable assets of the estate are insufficient to pay all claims in full, the personal representative shall make payment in the following order:

- (a) reasonable funeral expenses;
- (b) costs and expenses of administration;
- (c) debts and taxes with preference under federal law;
- (d) reasonable and necessary medical and hospital expenses of the last illness of the decedent, including compensation of persons attending him, and medical assistance if Section 26-19-13.5 applies;
- (e) debts and taxes with preference under other laws of this state; and
- (f) all other claims.

(2) No preference shall be given in the payment of any claim over any other claim of the same class, and a claim due and payable shall not be entitled to a preference over claims not due.

Amended by Chapter 145, 1998 General Session

**75-3-806. Allowance of claims.**

(1) As to claims presented in the manner described in Section 75-3-804 and within the time limit prescribed in Section 75-3-803, the personal representative may mail a notice to any claimant stating that the claim has been allowed or disallowed. If, after allowing or disallowing a claim, the personal representative changes the decision concerning the claim, the personal representative shall notify the claimant. The personal representative may not change a disallowance of a claim after the time for the claimant to file a petition for allowance or to commence a proceeding on the claim has expired and the claim has been barred. If the notice of disallowance warns the claimant of the impending bar, a claim which is disallowed in whole or in part by the personal representative is barred so far as not allowed, unless the claimant seeks a court ordered allowance by filing a petition for allowance in the court or by commencing a proceeding against the personal representative not later than 60 days after the mailing of the notice of disallowance or partial allowance. If the personal representative fails to mail notice to a claimant of action on the claim within 60 days after the time for original presentation of the claim has expired, this failure has the effect of a notice of allowance.

(2) Upon the petition of the personal representative or a claimant in a proceeding for this purpose, the court may order any claim presented to the personal representative or filed with the clerk of the court in a timely manner and not barred by Subsection (1) to be allowed in whole or in part. Notice of this proceeding shall be given to the claimant, the personal representative, and those other persons interested in the estate as the court may direct by order at the time the proceeding is commenced.

(3) A judgment in a proceeding in another court against a personal representative to enforce a claim against a decedent's estate is a court ordered allowance of the claim.

(4) Unless otherwise provided in any judgment in another court entered against the personal representative, allowed claims bear interest at the legal rate for the period commencing six months after the decedent's date of death unless based on a contract

making a provision for interest, in which case they bear interest in accordance with that provision.

Amended by Chapter 179, 1992 General Session

**75-3-807. Payment of claims.**

(1) Upon the expiration of the earliest of the time limitations provided in Section 75-3-803 for the presentation of claims, the personal representative shall proceed to pay the claims allowed against the estate in the order of priority prescribed, after making provision for homestead, family, and support allowances, for claims already presented which have not yet been allowed or whose allowance has been appealed, and for unbarred claims which may yet be presented, including costs and expenses of administration. By petition to the court in a proceeding for the purpose, or by appropriate motion if the administration is supervised, a claimant whose claim has been allowed but not paid as provided in this section may secure an order directing the personal representative to pay the claim to the extent that funds of the estate are available for the payment.

(2) The personal representative at any time may pay any just claim that has not been barred, with or without formal presentation, but he is personally liable to any other claimant whose claim is allowed and who is injured by such payment if:

(a) the payment was made before the expiration of the time limit stated in Subsection (1) and the personal representative failed to require the payee to give adequate security for the refund of any of the payment necessary to pay other claimants; or

(b) the payment was made, due to the negligence or willful fault of the personal representative, in such manner as to deprive the injured claimant of his priority.

Amended by Chapter 179, 1992 General Session

**75-3-808. Individual liability of personal representative.**

(1) Unless otherwise provided in the contract, a personal representative is not individually liable on a contract properly entered into in his fiduciary capacity in the course of administration of the estate unless he fails to reveal his representative capacity and identify the estate in the contract.

(2) A personal representative is individually liable for obligations arising from ownership or control of the estate or for torts committed in the course of administration of the estate only if he is personally at fault.

(3) Claims based on contracts entered into by a personal representative in his fiduciary capacity, on obligations arising from ownership or control of the estate, or on torts committed in the course of estate administration may be asserted against the estate by proceeding against the personal representative in his fiduciary capacity, whether or not the personal representative is individually liable therefor.

(4) Issues of liability as between the estate and the personal representative individually may be determined in a proceeding for accounting, surcharge, or indemnification or other appropriate proceeding.

Enacted by Chapter 150, 1975 General Session

**75-3-809. Secured claims.**

Payment of a secured claim is upon the basis of the amount allowed if the creditor surrenders his security; but otherwise payment is upon the basis of one of the following:

(1) If the creditor exhausts his security before receiving payment (unless precluded by other law) upon the amount of the claim allowed less the fair value of the security; or

(2) If the creditor does not have the right to exhaust his security or has not done so, upon the amount of the claim allowed less the value of the security determined by converting it into money according to the terms of the agreement pursuant to which the security was delivered to the creditor, or by the creditor and personal representative by agreement, arbitration, compromise, or litigation.

Amended by Chapter 30, 1992 General Session

**75-3-810. Claims not due and contingent or unliquidated claims.**

(1) If a claim which will become due at a future time or a contingent or unliquidated claim becomes due or certain before the distribution of the estate, and if the claim has been allowed or established by a proceeding, it is paid in the same manner as presently due and absolute claims of the same class.

(2) In other cases the personal representative, or, on petition of the personal representative or the claimant in a special proceeding for the purpose, the court may provide for payment as follows:

(a) If the claimant consents, he may be paid the present or agreed value of the claim, taking any uncertainty into account;

(b) Arrangement for future payment, or possible payment, on the happening of the contingency or on liquidation may be made by creating a trust, giving a mortgage, obtaining a bond or security from a distributee, or otherwise.

Enacted by Chapter 150, 1975 General Session

**75-3-811. Counterclaims.**

In allowing a claim the personal representative may deduct any counterclaim which the estate has against the claimant. In determining a claim against an estate a court shall reduce the amount allowed by the amount of any counterclaims and, if the counterclaims exceed the claim, render a judgment against the claimant in the amount of the excess. A counterclaim, liquidated or unliquidated, may arise from a transaction other than that upon which the claim is based. A counterclaim may give rise to relief exceeding in amount or different in kind from that sought in the claim.

Enacted by Chapter 150, 1975 General Session

**75-3-812. Execution and levies prohibited.**

No execution may issue upon nor may any levy be made against any property of

the estate under any judgment against a decedent or a personal representative, but this section shall not be construed to prevent the enforcement of mortgages, pledges, or liens upon real or personal property in an appropriate proceeding.

Enacted by Chapter 150, 1975 General Session

**75-3-813. Compromise of claims.**

When a claim against the estate has been presented in any manner, the personal representative may, if it appears for the best interest of the estate, compromise the claim, whether due or not due, absolute or contingent, liquidated or unliquidated.

Enacted by Chapter 150, 1975 General Session

**75-3-814. Encumbered assets.**

If any assets of the estate are encumbered by mortgage, pledge, lien, or other security interest, the personal representative may pay the encumbrance or any part thereof, renew or extend any obligation secured by the encumbrance, or convey or transfer the assets to the creditor in satisfaction of his lien, in whole or in part, whether or not the holder of the encumbrance has presented a claim, if it appears to be for the best interest of the estate. Payment of an encumbrance does not increase the share of the distributee entitled to the encumbered assets unless the distributee is entitled to exoneration.

Amended by Chapter 194, 1977 General Session

**75-3-815. Administration in more than one state -- Duty of personal representative.**

(1) All assets of estates being administered in this state are subject to all claims, allowances, and charges existing or established against the personal representative wherever appointed.

(2) If the estate either in this state or as a whole is insufficient to cover all family exemptions and allowances determined by the law of the decedent's domicile, prior charges and claims, after satisfaction of the exemptions, allowances and charges, each claimant whose claim has been allowed either in this state or elsewhere in administrations of which the personal representative is aware, is entitled to receive payment of an equal proportion of his claim. If a preference or security in regard to a claim is allowed in another jurisdiction but not in this state, the creditor so benefited is to receive dividends from local assets only upon the balance of his claim after deducting the amount of the benefit.

(3) In case the family exemptions and allowances, prior charges and claims of the entire estate exceed the total value of the portions of the estate being administered separately and this state is not the state of the decedent's last domicile, the claims allowed in this state shall be paid their proportion if local assets are adequate for the purpose, and the balance of local assets shall be transferred to the domiciliary personal representative. If local assets are not sufficient to pay all claims allowed in this state the

amount to which they are entitled, local assets shall be marshalled so that each claim allowed in this state is paid its proportion as far as possible, after taking into account all dividends on claims allowed in this state from assets in other jurisdictions.

Enacted by Chapter 150, 1975 General Session

**75-3-816. Final distribution to domiciliary representative.**

(1) The estate of a nonresident decedent being administered by a personal representative appointed in this state shall, if there is a personal representative of the decedent's domicile willing to receive it, be distributed to the domiciliary personal representative for the benefit of the successors of the decedent unless:

(a) By virtue of the decedent's will, if any, and applicable choice of law rules, the successors are identified pursuant to the local law of this state without reference to the local law of the decedent's domicile;

(b) The personal representative of this state, after reasonable inquiry, is unaware of the existence or identity of a domiciliary personal representative; or

(c) The court orders otherwise in a proceeding for a closing order under Section 75-3-1001 or incident to the closing of a supervised administration.

(2) In other cases, distribution of the estate of a decedent shall be made in accordance with the other parts of this chapter.

Enacted by Chapter 150, 1975 General Session

**75-3-901. Successors' rights if no administration.**

In the absence of administration, the heirs and devisees are entitled to the estate in accordance with the terms of a probated will or the laws of intestate succession. Devisees may establish title by the probated will to devised property. Persons entitled to property by homestead allowance, exemption, or intestacy may establish title thereto by proof of the decedent's ownership, his death, and their relationship to the decedent. Successors take subject to all charges incident to administration, including the claims of creditors and allowances of surviving spouse and dependent children, and subject to the rights of others resulting from abatement, retainer, advancement, and ademption.

Enacted by Chapter 150, 1975 General Session

**75-3-902. Distribution -- Order in which assets appropriated -- Abatement.**

(1) Except as provided in Subsection (3) and except as provided in connection with the share of the surviving spouse who elects to take an elective share, shares of distributees abate, without any preference or priority as between real and personal property, in the following order:

(a) property not disposed of by the will;

(b) residuary devises;

(c) general devises;

(d) specific devises.

(2) For purposes of abatement, a general devise charged on any specific property or fund is a specific devise to the extent of the value of the property on which it

is charged, and upon the failure or insufficiency of the property on which it is charged, a general devise to the extent of the failure or insufficiency. Abatement within each classification is in proportion to the amounts of property each of the beneficiaries would have received if full distribution of the property had been made in accordance with the terms of the will.

(3) If the will expresses an order of abatement, or if the testamentary plan or the express or implied purpose of the devise would be defeated by the order of abatement stated in Subsection (1), the shares of the distributees abate as may be found necessary to give effect to the intention of the testator.

(4) If the subject of a preferred devise is sold or used incident to administration, abatement shall be achieved by appropriate adjustments in, or contribution from, other interests in the remaining assets.

Amended by Chapter 306, 2007 General Session

**75-3-903. Right of retainer.**

The amount of a noncontingent indebtedness of a successor to the estate if due, or its present value if not due, shall be offset against the successor's interest; but the successor has the benefit of any defense which would be available to him in a direct proceeding for recovery of the debt.

Enacted by Chapter 150, 1975 General Session

**75-3-904. Interest on general pecuniary devise.**

General pecuniary devises bear interest at the legal rate beginning one year after the first appointment of a personal representative until payment, unless a contrary intent is indicated by the will.

Enacted by Chapter 150, 1975 General Session

**75-3-905. Penalty clause for contest.**

A provision in a will purporting to penalize any interested person for contesting the will or instituting other proceedings relating to the estate is unenforceable if probable cause exists for instituting proceedings.

Enacted by Chapter 150, 1975 General Session

**75-3-906. Distribution in kind -- Valuation -- Method.**

(1) Unless a contrary intention is indicated by the will, the distributable assets of a decedent's estate shall be distributed in kind to the extent possible through application of the following provisions:

(a) A specific devisee is entitled to distribution of the thing devised to him, and a spouse or child who has selected particular assets of an estate as provided in Section 75-2-403 shall receive the items selected.

(b) Any homestead or family allowance or devise payable in money may be satisfied by value in kind provided:



(i) the person entitled to the payment has not demanded payment in cash;  
(ii) the property distributed in kind is valued at fair market value as of the date of its distribution; and

(iii) no residuary devisee has requested that the asset in question remain a part of the residue of the estate.

(c) For the purpose of valuation under Subsection (1)(b) above, securities regularly traded on recognized exchanges, if distributed in kind, are valued at the price for the last sale of like securities traded on the business day prior to distribution, or if there was no sale on that day, at the median between amounts bid and offered at the close of that day. Assets consisting of sums owed the decedent or the estate by solvent debtors as to which there is no known dispute or defense are valued at the sum due with accrued interest or discounted to the date of distribution. For assets which do not have readily ascertainable values, a valuation as of a date not more than 30 days prior to the date of distribution, if otherwise reasonable, controls. For purposes of facilitating distribution, the personal representative may ascertain the value of the assets as of the time of the proposed distribution in any reasonable way, including the employment of qualified appraisers, even if the assets may have been previously appraised.

(d) The residuary estate shall be distributed in kind if there is no objection to the proposed distribution and it is practicable to distribute undivided interests. In other cases, residuary property may be converted into cash for distribution.

(2) After the probable charges against the estate are known, the personal representative may mail or deliver a proposal for distribution to all persons who have a right to object to the proposed distribution. The right of any distributee to object to the proposed distribution on the basis of the kind or value of asset he is to receive, if not waived earlier in writing, terminates if he fails to object in writing received by the personal representative within 30 days after mailing or delivery of the proposal.

Amended by Chapter 39, 1998 General Session

**75-3-907. Distribution in kind -- Evidence.**

If distribution in kind is made, the personal representative shall execute an instrument or deed of distribution assigning, transferring, or releasing the assets to the distributee as evidence of the distributee's title to the property.

Enacted by Chapter 150, 1975 General Session

**75-3-908. Distribution -- Right or title of distributee.**

Proof that a distributee has received an instrument or deed of distribution of assets in kind, or payment in distribution, from a personal representative, is conclusive evidence that the distributee has succeeded to the interest of the estate in the distributed assets, as against all persons interested in the estate, except that the personal representative may recover the assets or their value if the distribution was improper.

Enacted by Chapter 150, 1975 General Session

**75-3-909. Improper distribution -- Liability of distributee.**

Unless the distribution or payment no longer can be questioned because of adjudication, estoppel, or limitation, a distributee of property improperly distributed or paid, or a claimant who was improperly paid, is liable to return the property improperly received and its income since distribution if he has the property. If he does not have the property, then he is liable to return the value as of the date of disposition of the property improperly received and its income and gain received by him.

Enacted by Chapter 150, 1975 General Session

**75-3-910. Purchasers from distributees protected.**

If property distributed in kind or a security interest therein is acquired for value in good faith and without notice of any adverse claim by a purchaser from or lender to a distributee who has received an instrument or deed of distribution from the personal representative, or is so acquired by a purchaser from or lender to a transferee from the distributee, the purchaser or lender takes title free of rights of any interested person in the estate and incurs no personal liability to the estate, or to any interested person, whether or not the distribution was proper or supported by court order or the authority of the personal representative was terminated before execution of the instrument or deed. This section protects a purchaser from or lender to a distributee who, as personal representative, has executed a deed of distribution to himself, as well as a purchaser from or lender to any other distributee or his transferee. To be protected under this section, a purchaser or lender need not inquire whether a personal representative acted properly in making the distribution in kind, even if the personal representative and the distributee are the same person, or whether the authority of the personal representative had terminated before the distribution.

Enacted by Chapter 194, 1977 General Session

**75-3-911. Partition for purpose of distribution.**

When two or more heirs or devisees are entitled to distribution of undivided interests in any real or personal property of the estate, the personal representative or one or more of the heirs or devisees may petition the court, prior to the formal or informal closing of the estate, to make partition. After notice to the interested heirs or devisees, the court shall partition the property in the same manner as provided by the law for civil actions of partition. The court may direct the personal representative to sell any property which cannot be partitioned without prejudice to the owners and which cannot conveniently be allotted to any one party.

Enacted by Chapter 150, 1975 General Session

**75-3-912. Private agreements among successors to decedent binding on personal representative.**

Subject to the rights of creditors and taxing authorities, competent successors may agree among themselves to alter the interests, shares, or amounts to which they are entitled under the will of the decedent, or under the laws of intestacy, in any way

that they provide in a written contract executed by all who are affected by its provisions. The personal representative shall abide by the terms of the agreement, subject to his obligation to administer the estate for the benefit of creditors, to pay all taxes and costs of administration, and to carry out the responsibilities of his office for the benefit of any successors of the decedent who are not parties. Personal representatives of decedents' estates are not required to see to the performance of trusts if the trustee thereof is another person who is willing to accept the trust. Accordingly, trustees of a testamentary trust are successors for the purposes of this section. Nothing contained in this section relieves trustees of any duties owed to beneficiaries of trusts.

Enacted by Chapter 150, 1975 General Session

**75-3-913. Distributions to trustee.**

(1) Before distributing to a trustee, the personal representative may require that the trust be registered if the state in which it is to be administered provides for registration and that the trustee inform the qualified beneficiaries as provided in Section 75-7-811.

(2) If the trust instrument does not excuse the trustee from giving bond, the personal representative may petition the appropriate court to require that the trustee post bond if he apprehends that distribution might jeopardize the interests of persons who are not able to protect themselves; and he may withhold distribution until the court has acted.

(3) No inference of negligence on the part of the personal representative shall be drawn from his failure to exercise the authority conferred by Subsections (1) and (2).

Amended by Chapter 89, 2004 General Session

**75-3-914. Disposition of unclaimed assets.**

(1) If an heir, devisee or claimant cannot be found, the personal representative shall distribute the share of the missing person to his conservator, if any, but otherwise to the state treasurer for the benefit of the state school fund.

(2) The money received by the state treasurer shall be paid to the person entitled on proof of his right to it or, if the state treasurer refuses or fails to pay, the person may petition the court which appointed the personal representative, whereupon the court upon notice to the state treasurer may determine the person entitled to the money and order the treasurer to pay it to him. No interest is allowed thereon, and the heir, devisee, or claimant shall pay all costs and expenses incident to the proceeding.

Enacted by Chapter 150, 1975 General Session

**75-3-915. Distribution to person under disability.**

A personal representative may discharge his obligation to distribute to any person under legal disability by distributing to his conservator, or any other person authorized by this code or otherwise to give a valid receipt and discharge for the distribution.

Enacted by Chapter 150, 1975 General Session

**75-3-916. Apportionment of estate taxes.**

(1) As used in this section:

(a) "Estate" means the gross estate of a decedent as determined for the purpose of federal estate tax and the estate tax payable to this state;

(b) "Fiduciary" means personal representative, executor, administrator of any description, or trustee;

(c) "Person" means any individual, partnership, association, joint stock company, corporation, government, political subdivision, governmental agency, or local governmental agency;

(d) "Person interested in the estate" means any person, including a personal representative, conservator, guardian, or trustee entitled to receive, or who has received, from a decedent while alive or by reason of the death of a decedent any property or interest in property included in the decedent's taxable estate;

(e) "State" means any state, territory, or possession of the United States, the District of Columbia, or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico; and

(f) "Tax" means the federal estate tax and the inheritance, estate, or other death tax payable to this state and interest and penalties imposed in addition to the tax but specifically does not include the federal generation skipping transfer tax.

(2) Unless otherwise provided in the will or other dispositive instrument, the tax shall be apportioned among all persons interested in the estate. The apportionment shall be made in the proportion that the value of the interest of each person interested in the estate bears to the total value of the interests of all persons interested in the estate. The values used in determining the tax shall be used for that purpose. If the decedent's will or other dispositive instrument directs a method of apportionment of tax different from the method described in this code, the method described in the will or other dispositive instrument controls.

(3) (a) The court having jurisdiction over the administration of the estate of a decedent shall determine the apportionment of the tax. If there are no probate proceedings, the court of the county in which the decedent was domiciled at death shall determine the apportionment of the tax upon the petition of the person required to pay the tax.

(b) If the court finds that it is inequitable to apportion interest and penalties in the manner provided in Subsection (2), because of special circumstances, it may direct the apportionment in the manner it finds equitable.

(c) The expenses reasonably incurred by any fiduciary and by other persons interested in the estate concerning the determination of the amount and apportionment of the tax shall be apportioned as provided in Subsection (2) and charged and collected as a part of the tax apportioned. If the court finds it is inequitable to apportion the expenses as provided in Subsection (2), it may direct the apportionment equitably.

(d) If the court finds that the assessment of penalties and interest assessed in relation to the tax is due to delay caused by the negligence of the fiduciary, the court may charge the fiduciary with the amount of the assessed penalties and interest.

(e) In any suit or judicial proceeding to recover from any person interested in the estate the amount of the tax apportioned to the person in accordance with this code,

the determination of the court in this regard is prima facie correct.

(4) (a) The fiduciary or other person required to pay the tax may withhold from any property of the decedent in his possession and distributable to any person interested in the estate, the amount of tax attributable to his interest. If the property in possession of the fiduciary or other person required to pay the tax and distributable to any person interested in the estate is insufficient to satisfy the proportionate amount of the tax determined to be due from the person, the fiduciary or other person required to pay the tax may recover the deficiency from the person interested in the estate. If the property is not in the possession of the fiduciary or other person required to pay the tax, the fiduciary or the other person required to pay the tax may recover from any person interested in the estate the amount of the tax apportioned to the person in accordance with this section.

(b) If property held by the fiduciary or other person required to pay the tax is distributed prior to final apportionment of the tax, the fiduciary or other person may require the distributee to provide a bond or other security for the apportionment liability in the form and amount prescribed by the fiduciary, with the approval of the court having jurisdiction of the administration of the estate.

(5) (a) In making an apportionment, allowances shall be made for any exemptions granted, any classification made of persons interested in the estate, and any deductions and credits allowed by the law imposing the tax.

(b) Any exemption or deduction allowed by reason of the relationship of any person to the decedent or by reason of the purposes of the gift inures to the benefit of the person bearing that relationship or receiving the gift. When an interest is subject to a prior present interest which is not allowable as a deduction, the tax apportionable against the present interest shall be paid from principal.

(c) Any deduction for property previously taxed and any credit for gift taxes or death taxes of a foreign country paid by the decedent or his estate inures to the proportionate benefit of all persons liable to apportionment.

(d) Any credit for inheritance, succession, or estate taxes or taxes of this nature in respect to property or interests includable in the estate inures to the benefit of the persons or interests chargeable with the payment of the tax to the extent that, or in proportion as, the credit reduces the tax.

(e) To the extent that property passing to or in trust for a surviving spouse or child or any charitable, public, or similar gift or bequest does not constitute an allowable deduction for purposes of the tax solely by reason of an inheritance tax or other death tax imposed upon and deductible from the property, the property shall not be included in the computation provided for in Subsection (2), and to that extent no apportionment shall be made against the property. This does not apply in any instance where the result will be to deprive the estate of a deduction otherwise allowable under Section 2053(d) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 of the United States, relating to deduction for state death taxes on transfers for public, charitable, or religious uses.

(6) No interest in income and no estate for years or for life or other temporary interest in any property or fund is subject to apportionment as between the temporary interest and the remainder. The tax on the temporary interest and the tax, if any, on the remainder is chargeable against the corpus of the property or funds subject to the temporary interest and remainder.

(7) Neither the fiduciary nor other person required to pay the tax is under any duty to institute any suit or proceeding to recover from any person interested in the estate the amount of the tax apportioned to the person until the expiration of the three months next following final determination of the tax. A fiduciary or other person required to pay the tax who institutes the suit or proceeding within a reasonable time after the three months' period is not subject to any liability or surcharge because any portion of the tax apportioned to any person interested in the estate was collectible at a time following the death of the decedent but thereafter became uncollectible. If the fiduciary or other person required to pay the tax cannot collect from any person interested in the estate the amount of the tax apportioned to the person, the amount not recoverable shall be paid from the residuary estate. To the extent that the residuary estate is not adequate, the balance shall be equitably apportioned among the other persons interested in the estate who are subject to apportionment.

(8) Subject to this section, a fiduciary acting in another state or a person required to pay the tax who is domiciled in another state may institute an action in the courts of this state and may recover a proportionate amount of the federal estate tax, of an estate tax payable to another state, or of a death duty due by a decedent's estate to another state, from a person interested in the estate who is either domiciled in this state or who owns property in this state subject to attachment or execution. For the purposes of the action the determination of apportionment by the court having jurisdiction of the administration of the decedent's estate in the other state is prima facie correct. The provisions of this section apply only if the state in which the determination of apportionment was made affords a substantially similar remedy.

(9) This section does not apply to the apportionment of expenses incurred in connection with the determination of the amount and apportionment of the taxes due on account of the death of decedents dying prior to July 1, 1983.

Amended by Chapter 226, 1983 General Session

**75-3-917. Certain formula clauses to be construed to refer to federal estate and generation-skipping transfer tax rules applicable to estates of decedents dying after December 31, 2009.**

(1) A will or trust of a decedent who dies after December 31, 2009 and before January 1, 2011, that contains a formula referring to the "unified credit," "estate tax exemption," "applicable exemption amount," "generation-skipping transfer tax exemption" or "GST exemption," or that measures a share of an estate or trust based on the amount that can pass free of federal estate or generation-skipping transfer taxes, or that is otherwise based on a similar provision of federal estate tax or generation-skipping transfer tax law, shall be considered to refer to the federal estate and generation-skipping transfer tax laws as they applied with respect to estates of decedents dying on December 31, 2009.

(a) This provision may not apply with respect to a will or trust executed or amended after December 31, 2009, or that manifests an intent that a contrary rule shall apply if the decedent dies on a date on which there is no then-applicable federal estate or generation-skipping transfer tax.

(b) The reference to January 1, 2011 in Subsection (1) shall, if the federal estate

and generation-skipping transfer tax becomes effective before that date, refer instead to the first date on which the tax becomes legally effective.

(2) A proceeding to determine whether the decedent intended that the references under Subsection (1) be construed with respect to the law as it existed after December 31, 2009, shall be filed within 12 months of the date of death of the testator or grantor. It may be filed by the personal representative or any affected beneficiary under the will or other instrument.

Enacted by Chapter 223, 2010 General Session

**75-3-1001. Formal proceedings terminating administration -- Testate or intestate -- Order of general protection.**

(1) A personal representative or any interested person may petition for an order of complete settlement of the estate. The personal representative may petition at any time, and any other interested person may petition after one year from the appointment of the original personal representative except that no petition under this section may be entertained until the time for presenting claims which arose prior to the death of the decedent has expired. The petition may request the court to determine testacy, if not previously determined, to consider the final account or compel or approve an accounting and distribution, to construe any will or determine heirs, and to adjudicate the final settlement and distribution of the estate. After notice to all interested persons and hearing the court may enter an order or orders, on appropriate conditions, determining the persons entitled to distribution of the estate, and, as circumstances require, approving settlement and directing or approving distribution of the estate and discharging the personal representative from further claim or demand of any interested person.

(2) If one or more heirs or devisees were omitted as parties in, or were not given notice of, a previous formal testacy proceeding, the court, on proper petition for an order of complete settlement of the estate under this section, and after notice to the omitted or unnotified persons and other interested parties determined to be interested on the assumption that the previous order concerning testacy is conclusive as to those given notice of the earlier proceeding, may determine testacy as it affects the omitted persons and confirm or alter the previous order of testacy as it affects all interested persons as appropriate in the light of the new proofs. In the absence of objection by an omitted or unnotified person, evidence received in the original testacy proceeding shall constitute prima facie proof of due execution of any will previously admitted to probate, or of the fact that the decedent left no valid will if the prior proceedings determined this fact.

Enacted by Chapter 150, 1975 General Session

**75-3-1002. Formal proceedings terminating testate administration -- Order construing will without adjudicating testacy.**

A personal representative administering an estate under an informally probated will or any devisee under an informally probated will may petition for an order of settlement of the estate which will not adjudicate the testacy status of the decedent.

The personal representative may petition at any time, and a devisee may petition after one year from the appointment of the original personal representative, except that no petition under this section may be entertained until the time for presenting claims which arose prior to the death of the decedent has expired. The petition may request the court to consider the final account or compel or approve an accounting and distribution, to construe the will, and to adjudicate final settlement and distribution of the estate. After notice to all devisees and the personal representative and hearing, the court may enter an order or orders, on appropriate conditions, determining the persons entitled to distribution of the estate under the will, and, as circumstances require, approving settlement and directing or approving distribution of the estate and discharging the personal representative from further claim or demand of any devisee who is a party to the proceeding and those he represents. If it appears that a part of the estate is intestate, the proceedings shall be dismissed or amendments made to meet the provisions of Section 75-3-1001.

Enacted by Chapter 150, 1975 General Session

**75-3-1003. Closing estates -- By sworn statement of personal representative -- Waiver of accountings.**

(1) Unless prohibited by order of the court and except for estates being administered in supervised administration proceedings when all of the distributees of the estate consent in writing, a personal representative may close an estate by filing with the court no earlier than four months after the date of original appointment of a general personal representative for the estate, a verified statement stating that the personal representative, or a prior personal representative whom the personal representative has succeeded, has:

(a) determined that the time limitation for presentation of creditors' claims has expired;

(b) fully administered the estate of the decedent by making payment, settlement, or other disposition of all claims which were presented, expenses of administration and estate, inheritance and other death taxes, except as specified in the statement, and that the assets of the estate have been distributed to the persons entitled. If any claims remain undischarged, the statement shall state whether the personal representative has distributed the estate subject to possible liability with the agreement of the distributees or it shall state in detail other arrangements which have been made to accommodate outstanding liabilities; and

(c) sent a copy of the statement to all distributees of the estate and to all creditors or other claimants of whom he is aware whose claims are neither paid nor barred and has furnished a full account in writing of his administration to the distributees whose interests are affected thereby.

(2) If no proceedings involving the personal representative are pending in the court one year after the closing statement is filed, the appointment of the personal representative terminates.

(3) Any accounting required under this section or either Section 75-3-1001 or 75-3-1002 may be waived when all of the distributees of the estate consent in writing to the waiver.



Amended by Chapter 179, 1992 General Session

**75-3-1004. Liability of distributees to claimants.**

After assets of an estate have been distributed and subject to Section 75-3-1006, an undischarged claim not barred may be prosecuted in a proceeding against one or more distributees. No distributee shall be liable to claimants for amounts received as exempt property, homestead or family allowances, or for amounts in excess of the value of his distribution as of the time of distribution. As between distributees, each shall bear the cost of satisfaction of unbarred claims as if the claim had been satisfied in the course of administration. Any distributee who shall have failed to notify other distributees of the demand made upon him by the claimant in sufficient time to permit them to join in any proceeding in which the claim was asserted against him loses his right of contribution against other distributees.

Amended by Chapter 194, 1977 General Session

**75-3-1005. Limitations on proceedings against personal representative.**

Unless previously barred by adjudication and except as provided in the closing statement, the rights of successors and of creditors whose claims have not otherwise been barred against the personal representative for breach of fiduciary duty are barred unless a proceeding to assert the same is commenced within six months after the filing of the closing statement. The rights thus barred do not include rights to recover from a personal representative for fraud, misrepresentation, or inadequate disclosure related to the settlement of the decedent's estate.

Enacted by Chapter 150, 1975 General Session

**75-3-1006. Limitations on actions and proceedings against distributees.**

(1) Unless previously adjudicated in a formal testacy proceeding or in a proceeding settling the accounts of a personal representative or otherwise barred, the claim of any claimant to recover from a distributee who is liable to pay the claim, and the right of any heir or devisee or of a successor personal representative acting in their behalf, to recover property improperly distributed or the value thereof from any distributee is barred at the later of:

(a) as to a claim by a creditor of the decedent, one year after the decedent's death; and

(b) as to any other claimant and any heir or devisee, at the later of:

(i) three years after the decedent's death; or

(ii) one year after the time of distribution thereof.

(2) This section does not bar an action to recover property or value received as the result of fraud.

Amended by Chapter 179, 1992 General Session

**75-3-1007. Certificate discharging liens securing fiduciary performance.**

After his appointment has terminated, the personal representative, his sureties, or any successor of either, upon the filing of a verified application showing, so far as is known by the applicant, that no action concerning the estate is pending in any court, is entitled to receive a certificate from the registrar that the personal representative appears to have fully administered the estate in question. The certificate evidences discharge of any lien on any property given to secure the obligation of the personal representative in lieu of bond or any surety but does not preclude action against the personal representative or the surety.

Enacted by Chapter 150, 1975 General Session

**75-3-1008. Subsequent administration.**

If other property of the estate is discovered after an estate has been settled and the personal representative discharged or after one year after a closing statement has been filed, the court upon petition of any interested person and upon notice as it directs may appoint the same or a successor personal representative to administer the subsequently-discovered estate. If a new appointment is made, unless the court orders otherwise, the provisions of this code apply as appropriate; but no claim previously barred may be asserted in the subsequent administration.

Enacted by Chapter 150, 1975 General Session

**75-3-1101. Effect of approval of agreements involving trusts, inalienable interests, or interests of third persons.**

A compromise of any controversy as to admission to probate of any instrument offered for formal probate as the will of a decedent, the construction, validity, or effect of any probated will, the rights or interests in the estate of the decedent, any successor, or the administration of the estate, if approved in a formal proceeding in the court for that purpose, is binding on all the parties thereto, including those unborn, unascertained, or who could not be located. An approved compromise is binding even though it may affect a trust or an inalienable interest. A compromise does not impair the rights of creditors or of taxing authorities who are not parties to it.

Enacted by Chapter 150, 1975 General Session

**75-3-1102. Procedure for securing court approval of compromise.**

The procedure for securing court approval of a compromise is as follows:

- (1) The terms of the compromise shall be set forth in an agreement in writing which shall be executed by all competent persons and parents acting for any minor child having beneficial interests or having claims which will or may be affected by the compromise. Execution is not required by any person whose identity cannot be ascertained or whose whereabouts is unknown and cannot reasonably be ascertained.
- (2) Any interested person, including the personal representative or a trustee, then may submit the agreement to the court for its approval and for execution by the personal representative, the trustee of every affected testamentary trust, and other fiduciaries and representatives.

(3) After notice to all interested persons or their representatives, including the personal representative of the estate and all affected trustees of trusts, the court, if it finds that the contest or controversy is in good faith and that the effect of the agreement upon the interests of persons represented by fiduciaries or other representatives is just and reasonable, may make an order approving the agreement and directing all fiduciaries under its supervision to execute the agreement. Minor children represented only by their parents may be bound only if their parents join with other competent persons in execution of the compromise. Upon the making of the order and the execution of the agreement, all further disposition of the estate is in accordance with the terms of the agreement.

Amended by Chapter 30, 1992 General Session

**75-3-1201. Collection of personal property by affidavit.**

(1) Thirty days after the death of a decedent, any person indebted to the decedent or having possession of tangible personal property or an instrument evidencing a debt, obligation, stock, or chose in action belonging to the decedent shall pay the indebtedness or deliver the tangible personal property or an instrument evidencing a debt, obligation, stock, or chose in action to a person claiming to be the successor of the decedent upon being presented an affidavit made by or on behalf of the successor stating that:

- (a) the value of the entire estate subject to administration, wherever located, less liens and encumbrances, does not exceed \$100,000;
- (b) 30 days have elapsed since the death of the decedent;
- (c) no application or petition for the appointment of a personal representative is pending or has been granted in any jurisdiction; and
- (d) the claiming successor is entitled to payment or delivery of the property.

(2) A transfer agent of any security shall change the registered ownership on the books of a corporation from the decedent to the successor or successors upon the presentation of an affidavit and the security as provided in Subsection (1).

(3) The Motor Vehicle Division of the State Tax Commission shall transfer title of not more than four boats, motor vehicles, trailers, or semitrailers, registered under Title 41, Motor Vehicles, or Title 73, Water and Irrigation, from the decedent to the successor or successors upon presentation of an affidavit as provided in Subsection (1) and upon payment of the necessary fees, except that in lieu of that language in Subsection (1)(a) the affidavit shall state that the value of the entire estate subject to administration, wherever located, other than those motor vehicles, trailers, or semitrailers, less liens and encumbrances, does not exceed \$100,000.

Amended by Chapter 316, 2007 General Session

**75-3-1202. Effect of affidavit.**

The person paying, delivering, transferring, or issuing personal property or the evidence thereof pursuant to affidavit is discharged and released to the same extent as if he dealt with a personal representative of the decedent. He is not required to see to the application of the personal property or evidence thereof or to inquire into the truth of

any statement in the affidavit. If any person to whom an affidavit is delivered refuses to pay, deliver, transfer, or issue any personal property or evidence thereof, it may be recovered or its payment, delivery, transfer, or issuance compelled upon proof of their right in a proceeding brought for the purpose by or on behalf of the persons entitled to it. In such event, in addition to recovering the property, the person to whom an affidavit is delivered shall, in the discretion of the court, be liable for damages to the claimant for an amount up to three times the value of the personal property plus costs of suit and reasonable attorneys' fees. Any person to whom payment, delivery, transfer, or issuance is made is answerable and accountable therefor to any personal representative of the estate or to any other person having a superior right.

Amended by Chapter 226, 1983 General Session

**75-3-1203. Small estates -- Summary administrative procedure.**

If it appears from the inventory and appraisal that the value of the entire estate, less liens and encumbrances, does not exceed homestead allowance, exempt property, family allowance, costs and expenses of administration, reasonable funeral expenses, and reasonable and necessary medical and hospital expenses of the last illness of the decedent, the personal representative, without giving notice to creditors, may immediately disburse and distribute the estate to the persons entitled thereto and file a closing statement as provided in Section 75-3-1204.

Enacted by Chapter 150, 1975 General Session

**75-3-1204. Small estates -- Closing by sworn statement of personal representative.**

(1) Unless prohibited by order of the court and except for estates being administered by supervised personal representatives, a personal representative may close an estate administered under the summary procedures of Section 75-3-1203 by filing with the court, at any time after disbursement and distribution of the estate, a verified statement stating:

- (a) the nature and value of the estate's assets at the time of distribution;
  - (b) that to the best knowledge of the personal representative, the value of the entire estate, less liens and encumbrances, did not exceed homestead allowance, exempt property, family allowance, costs and expenses of administration, reasonable funeral expenses, and reasonable, necessary medical and hospital expenses of the last illness of the decedent;
  - (c) that the personal representative has fully administered the estate by disbursing and distributing it to the persons entitled thereto; and
  - (d) that the personal representative has sent a copy of the closing statement to all distributees of the estate and to all creditors or other claimants of whom the personal representative is aware whose claims are neither paid nor barred and has furnished a full account in writing of administration to the distributees whose interests are affected.
- (2) If no actions or proceedings involving the personal representative are pending in the court one year after the closing statement is filed, the appointment of the personal representative terminates.

(3) A closing statement filed under this section has the same effect as one filed under Section 75-3-1003.

Amended by Chapter 110, 1988 General Session